

U N A O :

A GAZETTEER,

BEING

VOLUME XXXVIII

OF THE

DISTRICT GAZETTEERS OF THE UNITED
PROVINCES OF AGRA AND OUDH.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

H. R. NEVILL, I. C. S.



ALLAHABAD:

PRINTED BY F. LUKER, SURDT., GOVT. PRESS, UNITED PROVINCES.

1903.

Price Rs. 3 (4s.).

3483
165
/ 31

GAZETTEER OF UNAO.

CONTENTS.

		PAGE.		
CHAPTER I.				
Boundaries and area ...	...	1	Castes ...	...
Towns and villages ...	...	1	Occupations ...	...
Topography ...	...	2	Condition of the people ...	...
Rivers ...	...	4	Language ...	...
Lakes ...	...	7	Proprietors ...	...
Soils ...	...	8	Talugas ...	...
Waste land ...	...	9	Under-proprietors ...	...
Precarious tracts ...	...	11	Tenants ...	...
Groves ...	...	12	Rents ...	...
Minerals ...	...	13	CHAPTER IV.	
Fauna ...	...	14	District staff ...	...
Cattle ...	...	15	Fiscal history ...	...
Climate and rainfall ...	...	18	Police ...	...
Health ...	...	19	Excise ...	...
CHAPTER II.			Post-office ...	...
Cultivation ...	...	25	Income-tax ...	...
Crops ...	...	26	Registration ...	...
Irrigation ...	...	30	Stamps ...	...
Famines ...	...	33	Local Self-Government ...	...
Prices ...	...	36	Education ...	...
Weights and measures ...	...	38	Cattle pounds ...	...
Interest ...	...	39	CHAPTER V.	
Trade ...	...	40	History ...	...
Communications ...	...	43	Directory ...	...
CHAPTER III.			Appendices ...	...
Population ...	...	49	Index ...	...
Religions ...	...	51		

PREFACE.

THE space allotted to Unao in the old Oudh Gazetteer was very meagre. The material was mainly taken from the report of the first regular settlement by its author, Mr. G. B. Maconochie, and from the 'Chronicles of Oonao' by Sir C. A. Elliott. In compiling the new Gazetteer frequent reference has been made to these two publications; but the Oudh Gazetteer has become almost wholly obsolete, and it was necessary to work on entirely new lines. I am deeply indebted to the valuable Settlement Report of Mr. W. H. Moreland, I.C.S., a large portion of which has been incorporated in this volume. I must also express my thanks to Mr. R. P. Dewhurst, I.C.S., and to Mr. H. O. W. Robarts, I.C.S., who have supplied me with many useful notes and corrections. The early history has been contributed by Mr. R. Burn, I.C.S.

NAINI TAL: }
September 1903. }

H. R. N.

GAZETTEER OF UNAO.

REFERENCES.

- Report on the Revised Settlement of the Unao District
by G. B. Maconochie, 1867.
- Final Report on the Settlement of Land Revenue in the
Unao District, by W. H. Moreland, I.C.S., 1896.
- The Chronicles of Oonao, by C. A. Elliott, B.C.S., 1862.
- A Report on the Family History of the Chief Clans of
the Roy Bareilly District, by W. C. Bennett, C.S., 1870.
- Historical Album of the Rajas and Taluqdars of Oudh, by
Darogha Haji Abbas Ali, 1880.
- Manual of Titles for Oudh, 1889.
- Selections from State Papers preserved by the Military
Department, 1857-58, by G. W. Forrest, C.I.E., 1902.
- The Mutinies in Oudh, by M. R. Gubbins, B.C.S., 1858.
- The Sepoy War, by Sir Hope Grant, G.C.B., 1873.
- Census Reports, 1869, 1881, 1891 and 1901.
-

ABBREVIATIONS.

- J. R. A. S.—Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society.
- J. A. S. B.—Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal.
- A. S. N. I.—Archæological Survey of Northern India.

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL FEATURES.

UNAO, a district on the south-west borders of Oudh, is bounded on the north by Hardoi, on the east by Lucknow, on the south by Rai Bareli, all of which belong to the Lucknow division, and on the west by the river Ganges, which separates it from the Cawnpore and Fatehpur districts. It lies between $26^{\circ} 8'$ and $27^{\circ} 2'$ north latitude, and $80^{\circ} 3'$ and $81^{\circ} 3'$ east longitude, and has an area of 1,737 square miles: a small district of no great natural wealth and of little interest or importance.

The district contains no towns of any size, nor any markets of great standing. At the last census, besides the municipal town of Unao with its population of 13,109, only one town, Purwa, possessed over 10,000 persons, while there were but five others containing a population of over 5,000 inhabitants. These are Safipur, Mauranwan, Asiwan, Bangarmau and Mohan. Besides these there are three small towns administered under Act XX of 1856, Moradabad, Bhagwantnagar and Newalganj. Of the remaining 1,633 villages, no fewer than 1,421 had a population of less than 1,000 persons, while 151 possessed between 1,000 and 2,000 inhabitants, and only 61 over 2,000 persons. Of the larger villages few consist of a compact site, most of them being made up of scattered hamlets. The tendency of cultivators to leave the main village and to live close to their holdings is in operation, but not to the same extent as in the neighbouring district of Rai Bareli. There are on an average three sites to a village, and many landowners invest small amounts of capital in founding hamlets, hoping to be repaid by the rise of rents and the extension of cultivation in their vicinity. The average area of the villages is large amounting to 756 which contrasts
by with the villages of Oudh. This is

due to the fact of their having been owned by small communities who were compelled in self-defence to collect themselves and their dependents into one homestead for mutual protection. Since annexation and the advent of more peaceful times numerous partitions have taken place, and the cultivators sure of protection have left the parent villages with the cessation of the necessity for mutual help. As usual, most of the houses are of mud, which suggests a false idea of great poverty. During the Nawabi the mere appearance of prosperity itself attracted notice, and the people in order to save themselves from spoliation allowed their habitations to fall into disrepair, and refrained from wearing clothes which might give an idea of wealth.

In its general aspect, the district may be divided into two main divisions—the lowlands or tarai, lying along the banks of the Ganges; and the uplands, which extend eastwards from the high bank. All along the immediate banks of the river lies a stretch of alluvial land which is constantly subject to inundations. Beyond this tract, which is directly subject to fluvial action, lies a stretch of lowland, containing a small population, with large areas unfit for cultivation and with a constant liability to disastrous floods—a tract which can only be described as extremely precarious. In the northern parganas of Bangarmau and Fatehpur Chaurasi, the portion of the tarai which is not subject to actual diluvion is liable to suffer from floods, which in years of excessive rainfall have caused infinite damage to the autumn crops. On the other hand, the spring crops in this tract are generally of an excellent description; irrigation is practically unnecessary, or where necessary, can be very easily effected, the water lying close to the surface. Further south, in the parganas of Pariar and Sikandarpur, we find a similar stretch of tarai, but rather wider than in the north. The greater part of Pariar consists of lowlying land along the Ganges, cut up by side channels of the river and liable to constant change. Eight villages along the banks of the river are directly subject to fluvial action and are held under a quinquennial settlement. The same applies to Sikandarpur, of which about one-third is alluvial. In pargana Unao the tarai is much narrower—a fact which doubtless influenced the selection of the site

for the railway bridge over the river. From the railway crossing the high bank sweeps back in both directions, and beyond the alluvial villages there is a considerable tract which is from time to time liable to flooding. In Unao and Harha there are extensive stretches of waste land covered with coarse grass, tamarisk and babuls. The autumn harvest is precarious, and for this reason the rabi covers a decidedly more extensive area. In the Baiswara parganas to the south of the district the tarai is of a similar nature, sparsely populated, with wide grass plains separating the blocks of cultivation, with large areas covered with babul trees and liable to floods from the Ganges. The whole of the lowland is rendered precarious by the possibility of inundation whenever there is a sudden rise in the river, and in most years the kharif crop is a doubtful speculation.

The tarai is separated from the uplands by the old high bank of the river, which is in most cases well defined. Immediately underneath this bank we generally find a line of swampy depressions along which the Kalyani flows in tahsil Safipur and the Naurahi in Purwa. In the Unao tahsil the rise from the level of the tarai is usually very gradual, and it is seldom easy to say exactly where the line should be drawn. The bank runs from north to south in an irregular course and is by no means parallel to the present channel of the Ganges. On the top of the bank the soil is generally of a very inferior quality, light and sandy and deficient in means of irrigation.

Stretching eastwards from the high bank lies the upland portion of the district, which extends as far as the valley of the Sai. The surface is gently undulating, ridges of high and somewhat sandy soil giving place to wide depressions in which clay prevails. In the deeper of these depressions lakes of a more or less permanent character are to be found, while in the others there are shallow swamps, which dry up in hot weather and are of little use except for rice cultivation. The country is well wooded, as in Lucknow, and in the upland portion of the Baiswara, which comprises the southern parganas of the district, there are continuous stretches of groves which literally cover miles of ground. Another conspicuous feature of the country consists of the wide expanses of arid *desert*, which in so many

parts form the bulk of the waste land. In the Safipur tahsil the surface is decidedly uneven, and in the north the soils are light and sandy, especially towards the Hardoi border. The southern portion consists of a good loam which extends into the south and east of Mohan, where, however, it is disfigured by large plains of barren *úsar* and considerable stretches of hard clay soil. In the north and west of Mohan the surface is distinctly undulating, the soil being light and in the higher portions extremely sandy; at the same time there is a relative absence of wholly barren land. In Unao the upland is somewhat flat and there are none of these ridges of high sandy soil which form so marked a feature of the other portions of the district. The soil is a light loam alternating with a hard dark clay in the shallow depressions which resembles that of the south of Mohan. The Purwa tahsil is extremely varied in its physical characteristics. In the north the surface is flat and marked by enormous stretches of *úsar*, while in the south the land is gently undulating and the soil of striking fertility. Along the eastern boundary there are some extensive sheets of water, especially in pargana Mauranwan.

In the extreme east we come to the valley of the Sai. This depression is most marked in the north of the Mohan tahsil, where floods on that river occasionally do considerable damage. With a succession of wet years the water-level rises and the villages along its course suffer from waterlogging and efflorescence of *reh*. In the Purwa tahsil the channel of the river is deeper and better defined, and the tarai area is comparatively small.

The only great river of Unao is the Ganges, which form the western and southern boundary of the district. It is not, however, put to much use, either as a highway for the conveyance of produce or for irrigation. It is bridged both for railway and cart traffic opposite Cawnpore on the road and rail from Unao and Lucknow, and this bridge constitutes, for practical purposes, the only thoroughfare across the river. There are, indeed, several ferries, but these only serve the purpose of pedestrians and pilgrims, and none of them can be considered in any sense a trade route. The river does not lend itself to irrigation. The small drainage channels or *sotas* which in some parganas run inland for a considerable distance, occasionally provide water for the

crops sown on the lowlying alluvial land; but as a rule the river is useless owing to the height of the bank and the consequent number of lifts that would be required to raise the water to the level of the fields. In other cases the cultivated land lies at a great distance from the river, and the water would have to be conveyed through the sand that flanks the river, where it would be greatly wasted, if not altogether absorbed. The main channel of the stream is constantly liable to change, and the cultivation in its immediate neighbourhood is consequently of a fluctuating nature. The variation in the channel is most marked in the south of the district. Its course lies generally from north-west to south-east; but there are several sharp bends, such as those at Jajamau and Aurangabad in the Safipur tahsil, at Shankarpur in Unao, and at Serhupur in Daundia Khera: at the last place the river sharply turns to the east, and at Daundia Khera it runs close under the old high bank past the ferry at Baksar.

Next in importance is the Sai, which for a large portion of its course forms the northern and eastern boundary of the district. It rises in Hardoi and from Roshanabad in the extreme north to Kursat it separates pargana Bangarmau from the Sandila tahsil; thence it flows in an irregular course through pargana Auras Mohan to Mohan, where it turns south and from that point separates Unao from Lucknow, with the exception of a few villages of Gorinda-Parsandan and Asoha, which lie to the east of the river. It leaves pargana Mauranwan in the extreme south-east at Sarai Mubarakpur and enters the Rai Bareilly district. The river holds water all the year round, but is fordable at many places soon after the cessation of the rains. It is bridged at Mohan and Bani by fine old native structures of masonry, and also by the railway bridge and the new bridge at Jabraila in the north of pargana Mauranwan. The valley of the Sai consists chiefly of a firm clay - the river is the cause of frequent floods and after a succession of wet years does a great deal of

and equalized by earthen dams which are erected at fixed places. The rules under which these dams are maintained and regulated have been carefully recorded in the administration papers of the villages interested. In a dry season water becomes so valuable that unless rules were distinctly laid down these dams would be a never-ending source of dispute and quarrel.

The Kalyani rises in Hardoi and enters the district at Lahramau in the north of Bangarmanu; thence it flows in an ill-defined, irregular course through that pargana and Fatehpur-Chaurasi into the Ganges at Maraunda. Its channel lies generally under the high bank. It is a narrow sluggish stream, of little use for irrigation, but causing considerable damage when it overflows its banks, which invariably occurs after any unusual rainfall. There are no bridges over the river, but it is readily fordable at all seasons.

Of much the same size as the Kalyani is the Tinai, which rises in the Kutkari jhāl at Asiwan and passes down through the parganas of Asiwan-Rasulabad and Pariar. This stream is generally dry except during and immediately after rain. It is entirely useless for the purposes of irrigation as the banks are high and steep, so that the cost of raising water to the fields would altogether absorb the profit derived from it. It ultimately joins the Ganges by means of the numerous side channels of that river in pargana Pariar. It has a small tributary known as the Aurai, which rises in the south-east of the Asiwan-Rasulabad pargana and joins the Tinai after a short course.

The Loni is a small stream which rises in the Pawai tank in the Unao pargana and flows in a south-easterly direction into the Purwa tahsīl, which it enters about the middle of its western border. It traverses the tahsīl in the same direction and eventually falls into the Ganges near Khajurgaon in the Rai Bareli district. A short distance north-west of the village of Bihar it is joined by the Khorahi, an even more diminutive stream, which rises near Asoha and thence flows south through pargana Purwa. Both of these dry up comparatively early in the cold weather, and as their beds lie deep below the level of the surrounding country, they are useless for purposes of irrigation. In places excellent crops of rice are grown in the bed of

the Loni and on its banks, but elsewhere its course is marked by ravines, which are sometimes surprisingly extensive, considering the insignificant nature of the stream.

Lastly, we have the Naurahi or Gurdhoi, which rises in a series of swamps in pargana Harha and flows beneath the old high bank of the Ganges through Ghatampur and Daundia Khera to join the river at Baksar. This also is practically useless for purposes of irrigation, but is sometimes liable to floods, rendering the kharif crops along its course very precarious.

The only canal in the district is the useless work constructed by King Ghazi-ud-din Haidar, which enters the north of Bangarmau at the village of Sultanpur and thence running in a south-easterly direction joins the Sai at Kursat. It leaves the river again at the village of Ajgaon near Auras and thence runs into the Kakori pargana of Lucknow. Mr. Maconochie writes: "the original idea was to join the Ganges and the Gumti, but the levels were so infamously taken and the money granted so misappropriated, that after spending lakhs of treasure and injuring more or less every village through which the canal was driven, the King found himself as far off as ever from the object he desired. Its bed shelters wild beasts and bad characters in the dry weather, and drains off all the water from the adjacent villages in the rains, thus not merely depriving the land of the water which would otherwise fertilize it, but causing a continual cutting and ravining away of all the neighbouring fields."* Not only has it entirely failed as a highway and means of irrigation, but it obstructs all communication with the Hardoi district and adds enormously to the expense of keeping the roads in repair. It is possible that this old work may after all be put to some use, as it has been proposed to use part of it as an escape for the projected Sarda canal.

The district possesses an unusual number of swamps and lakes of great size and value, particularly in the south and east. Many of these hold water all the year round, and afford ample facilities in ordinary years for irrigation to the villages bordering upon them. Fish abound in them, and the waternut or *svnghara* is very extensively grown as also in almost every

pond in the district: both these items constitute a considerable source of revenue to the land-owners, the former being carried to the great markets of Lucknow and Cawnpore, while the latter finds a ready sale in the neighbouring towns and villages. The largest lakes are the Kundra Samundar near Jhalotar; the lake near Nawabganj; the wide stretch of water near Kantha, and the long chain of jhils in pargana Mauranwan. In the Safipur tahsil the more important tanks are those at Mawai-Bhari and Kursat, and the Harial Tal near Mustafabad. In Mohan, besides the Kundra Samundar at Mawai, there are the Kulli Bani and Jalesar tanks near Ajgain and the Basaha jhil in the same neighbourhood; in the west there are the Katgari jhil near Asiwan and the Amarpur water. In the north and east there are only small and very shallow tanks, which dry up with any deficiency of rainfall. In the Unao tahsil there are no lakes of any size or importance, but a number of very shallow depressions, which are under water during the rains and yield excellent crops of rice. In Purwa they are numerous. There is a well marked tract running the whole length of the tahsil and studded throughout its course with tanks and jhils; these comprise the tanks at Kantha, Bhadain, Unchgaon Qila, Mirri, Zorawarganj and Sarwan, the Barhna tank near Sagauli, the Mohna and Sukrar jhils near Mauranwan, and several others on the Rai Bareli borders. Besides these there are the tanks at Sahrawan, the Kubha tank at Bhagwantnagar, the Barela jhil on the Rai Bareli border and several small scattered swamps in the tarai. Those at Kantha, Sagauli and Barela hold water all the year round, while the others generally supply irrigation for the rabi crops, although they are liable to dry up in years of drought.

The district is of average but not exceptional fertility; the cultivated land is usually fertile and the best land is of a high quality, but at the same time there are considerable stretches of inferior soil, light sandy *bhur*, which is peculiarly susceptible to drought and on this account to be regarded as generally precarious. The soil is for the most part a fertile loam of light texture and similar to that which prevails throughout Oudh. Clay is found in places, while elsewhere

and especially in the west and north, there is a high proportion of sand. Here and there salt earth is to be found, but the manufacture of salt would not be profitable owing to the deficiency in quality and extent. At the last settlement the natural classification of soil under the heads of *dumat* or loam, *mattiyar* or clay, and *bhur* or sand was employed, with the addition of a fourth conventional class known as *goind*, which comprises the highly cultivated and manured land in the immediate vicinity of the homestead. The three natural classes are continuous, but the separation was simple, as the cultivators generally recognised *mattiyar* and *bhur*, so that all land which did not come under one head or the other was entered as *dumat*. For the whole district the percentage of *goind* is 18·63, the figure being highest in the Purwa tahsíl, where it amounts to no less than 23·52 per cent. Loam comprises 48·43 per cent. and clay 16·71 per cent. ; *bhur* occupies the remaining 16·2 per cent. The largest areas of clay soil are to be found in the Unao tahsíl, and especially in pargana Sikandarpur and in the south and east of Mohan. Much of this consists of a dark hard clay locally known as *bijarhar*, which is found in the neighbourhood of *asar* and occupies the depressions in the surface of the country. In years of seasonable rainfall this soil yields excellent crops of rice, but the tract is entirely dependent on the monsoon. Besides rice, no other crop can be grown with the exception of gram of a poor quality. The largest areas of *bhur* or sandy soil are to be found in Asoha, where it covers 38·62 per cent. of the cultivation. There is a great deal in the Safipur tahsíl, and especially in the parganas of Bangarman and Fatehpur-Chaurasi. A large amount of sand is to be found in the north of Mohan, and also in pargana Gorinda-Parsandan, where it amounts to over 29 per cent.

The extent of barren waste is a striking characteristic of the district. It amounts in all to 236,290 acres or over 20 per cent. of the total area. The proportion is greatest in the Purwa tahsíl, but it is large everywhere. Of this area, however, over 36 per cent. is under water or occupied by sites, buildings and roads thus leaves slightly over 150 000 acres of actually barren land. The latter consists mainly of large *asar* plains

which not infrequently stretch continuously for many miles. These plains are found chiefly in the central parganas and notably in the north of Purwa tahsil. Mr. Maconochie wrote in 1865: "Nothing will grow upon them, except here and there a weird-looking babul tree. During the rainy months, it is true, the village cattle pick up a scanty pasturage, but even this fails shortly after the rain ceases to fall, the grass withering away. Whether these plains will ever be brought into cultivation remains to be proved. The people of the district think not, and though, as population increases and pressure for land is felt, many parts now declared unculturable may be brought under the plough, I do not think the present generation will see much progress made towards their general cultivation; and certainly it would be most unsafe to take the possibility of their cultivation into consideration in judging of the assessment. I believe the only chance of doing anything would be by extensive subsoil drainage to carry off the alkali and at the same time adding plenty of manure to supply the requisite mould; but these would require both time and capital. So long, therefore, as money can be invested profitably in undertakings yielding a safe and rapid return, no man will ever embark in the doubtful experiment of reclaiming *usar*." * Sir William Sleeman, when passing through Unao, wrote: "Some people said the worst of the *usar* could be cultivated; others denied it. All agreed that any but the worst can be reclaimed by flooding for two or three years, cross-ploughing, manuring and irrigating. All the soil is liable to become *usar* if neglected or left fallow for a few years. Certainly *usar* prevails near the high roads where the peasantry are exposed to the rapacity of the king's troops; and this tends to confirm the notion that tillage is necessary in certain soils to check the tendency of salts to superabundance."† Nothing has been done in this direction by private enterprise; but in 1898 Government ventured upon the experiment of taking up a reserve at Abbaspur near Unao, to be used for the propagation of babul trees, the growth of which is especially important, as the Cawnpore tanneries have almost exhausted

* Settlement Report, p 8

† Tour through Oude Vol I p 277

the supply of bark in the neighbouring districts. The experiment has for the most part proved a failure. An analysis of the soil on the surface showed no indication of *reh*, and the trees were planted. At first they seemed to flourish, but latterly most of them have died. The reason apparently is that in this case the *reh* lies at a short depth below the surface—an unusual phenomenon, which has not been observed elsewhere.

The precarious tracts of the district fall under two heads—those which are liable to suffer from drought, and those in which there is a danger of waterlogging. The former comprise several scattered villages in different parts of the district which constantly suffer from a deficiency of means of irrigation. Most of them lie on the central bhur tract which runs from Asiwan to Hasanganj. This stretch of country suffers with peculiar acuteness in years of deficient rainfall and consequently felt severely the effects of the famine of 1897. The tract is fully assessed, for the nature of the soil renders constant rest necessary, so that the area of fallow in each year must show a somewhat large proportion to the total cultivation. The danger of flooding is more serious and there are three tracts so liable. The first occupies portions of the parganas of Sikandarpur, Pariar and Unao, the largest number of villages lying in Sikandarpur. In old days the Ganges flowed considerably nearer Pariar than at present, and it appears that a large branch of the river must have come round under the villages of Rau and Thana. Instead of flowing ahead in a fairly even sweep, this branch was thrown back by the high ground on which stand the villages of Sarosi and Sikandarpur and joined the main stream near Mirzapur. In time of flood this old bed is still filled, and the uplands of pargana Sikandarpur then form a promontory running out from the main uplands of the district with water on both sides. The tract liable to depression is the lower portion of this old bed and the villages on the slopes of this promontory. Deterioration has probably been caused by the railway embankment which obstructs the flow of the flood water. The second tract consists of a number of villages lying along the Kalyani nadi. This stream emerges into a somewhat intricate series of swamps and channels a little above Pariar where it joins the Ganges.

As already mentioned, it is not a continuous stream, its course being marked by swampy depressions, so that in places it fails to serve the purposes of a drain. The water-level was raised in this tract by the heavy rains of 1894 and the preceding years, and it appears possible that the deterioration was also due in part to the effect of the railway embankment. The third tract lies in pargana Mohan in the valley of the Sai. With a succession of wet years the water-level rises and all the villages lying along its course are apt to suffer. At the last settlement the whole tract was in a very depressed condition from this cause, and there was in consequence but little increase in the revenue, while in some villages short-term settlements were made. This depression appears to have lasted some seven or eight years, but with the return of seasons of lighter rainfall the villages all recovered. A similar phenomenon is said to have occurred about the year 1872. Reference has already been made to the lowlying rice lands of Jhalotar-Ajgain and Gorinda-Parsandan. The villages in which there is a large proportion of the clay known as *bijarhar* require constant watching as they are entirely dependent on the character of the rainfall. In the case of those villages which suffer from deficient irrigation the only remedy consists in providing additional facilities for the supply of water; but the majority of the landlords can do no more than meet the demand made upon them and are not at present in a position to indulge in expenditure on improvements.

The area under groves in 1902 was returned at 64,497 acres or 5.5 per cent. of the total area of the district. Of this nearly 30,000 acres lie in the Purwa tahsíl and a large portion of the remainder in pargana Harba, although almost every pargana of the district has a fair proportion of grove land. At the last settlement groves had increased by only 5 per cent. since 1865. Mr. Moreland writes: "The small increase shown is the result of two opposing tendencies. Increase is favoured by the universal desire to possess this form of property: according to the custom of the district, once a cultivator has obtained a grove he is entitled to retain it free of all rent so long as he remains in the village and has power to mortgage or sell his rights to the trees and to occupy the soil. The landlord retains the right of

ownership in the soil, but can exercise it only when the trees of the grove have been cut down or the tenant has absconded. The high value placed on these rights by the tenants was clearly demonstrated by the enormous number of cases concerning the entry of groves brought during the settlement and the keenness with which they were contested. Small land-owners are equally fond of having a grove, and very many new groves have been planted by these classes. On the other hand, large areas of the best land which at last settlement were occupied by groves have been brought under cultivation, especially in the neighbourhood of populous places occupied by large proprietary bodies where the competition for land has made it more profitable to cut down the trees and let the land to tenants. In this way the groves near towns, such as Asiwan, Mohan or Neotani, have been almost entirely brought under the plough.* Besides these artificially planted groves, which consist chiefly of mango and mahua trees, there are no woods now left in the district. The few that remained after reoccupation were made into grants, and have now been cleared; a little dhák jungle here and there is alone left to show where dense forests once stood.

The mineral products of the district are naturally few, as the geology of Unao exposes nothing but the ordinary Gangetic alluvium; stone is consequently entirely absent, the only minerals being kankar and *reh*. The latter is an impure carbonate of soda that appears as a white efflorescence on the *úsar* plains and in the saturated tarai of the smaller rivers; it is inimical to cultivation and is a sure sign of barren soil. *Reh* is of very little use: it is sometimes employed in the manufacture of native glass, or else is collected by Dhobis, who use it for washing in place of soap. Kankar is found all over the district, generally in the nodular form; it is chiefly used as a road metal and for ballast on the railways, a large amount being exported annually to Cawnpore. The cost of quarrying kankar is one rupee per 100 cubic feet, and eight annas for cleaning and two annas for stacking on the roadside. The cost of carriage is Re. 1-12-0 per 100 cubic feet on the first mile, and eight annas for every additional mile.

s. All the stone used for building has to be imported from Chunár or Mirzapur, and costs Rs. 2-8-0 per cubic foot. It is consequently very seldom employed. Bricks are manufactured by contractors at one or two places, but chiefly in the vicinity of Unao. They are made in two sizes, one being square and 12" by 12" by 2" in dimension, and the other 9" by 4½" by 3". The latter are more commonly used, and are made in three qualities; the price ranging from Rs. 8 to Rs. 4 per hundred. The square country bricks are merely sun-dried and cost Rs. 3 per hundred. Bricks are not much used for building, most of the houses being of mud. Brick houses are generally confined to Unao and the old Muhammadan towns. Lime is generally imported from Cawnpore, at the rate of Rs. 1-4-0 per maund, and very little is manufactured locally from kaukar. The best timbers for building are sál and asna, but neither of these grows in the district and have to be imported from either Bahramghat in Bara Banki or Cawnpore. Sál logs cost Rs. 3-8-0 per cubic foot, and asna Rs. 2-8-0. They are consequently too expensive for ordinary use, and recourse is generally had to the woods of the country, such as mahua, mango and shisham. These are available everywhere. The cost varies considerably: shisham is the best and also the dearest, costing as a rule Rs. 2 per cubic foot, while mahua fetches Re. 1-8-0, and mango, which is a very inferior timber, runs to about Re. 1-4-0 per cubic foot. These prices were supplied by the District Surveyor in 1901.

The wild animals of the district are few and unimportant. Nilgai and blackbuck occur in fair numbers in most parts, but they are not sufficiently numerous to cause much damage to the crops. Wolves are the only destructive carnivora, and appear to be common. The usual rewards are paid for their destruction, and the average number of claims paid is about ten annually. They very seldom cause the death of human beings. The average mortality due to wild animals for the five years ending 1901 was fifteen, but in the last year out of ten persons killed, no less than nine of the casualties were due to the bites of mad jackals and the tenth to a wild pig. Jackals are of course ubiquitous, and pig are found in large

numbers, and particularly in the khádir of the Ganges. In the extreme south of the district, near the river in pargana Daundia Khera, there are a few herds of wild cattle, which roam at will in the lowlying lands, and are a source of constant danger to the crops, which are frequently guarded by deep ditches. Snakes are numerous, but no reward is paid for their destruction. The average number of deaths from snake-bite is about 75 annually.

Fish are consumed as food by the bulk of the population,¹ and in some parts are employed as manure for the fields during the rains. There is not, however, any great demand for fish: they are caught and trapped by Kahars, Koris, Lodhs and Pasis. At the 1901 census there were only 152 fishermen and dealers with their dependents in the district, but this does not in any way represent the actual numbers, for the lower agricultural classes frequently betake themselves to fishing during the season in addition to their ordinary occupation. Dr. Day estimated that there were 2,000 fishermen in the Purwa tahsíl alone.* The chief fisheries are the Ganges and other rivers, and the large tanks in the Purwa tahsíl. The fish are taken by means of the rod and line, net and funnel-shaped basket known as a *tápa* and made of reeds and rushes. The fish are frequently trapped in the irrigated fields during the rains, and large numbers of very small fish are thus destroyed. The smallest mesh of net used is about half an inch.

The domestic animals of the district are of the usual inferior type that we find throughout the south of Oudh. In 1866 the Settlement Officer wrote: "Though small in size, they appear to answer all the purposes required of them, and hitherto the people have had no inducement to improve them. The ploughs and *purs* which they have to work are small and light; and though they may be incapable of dragging a heavily-laden cart any great distance, they easily convey manure to the out fields and the grain to the nearest market; this is all their owners require or expect of them, and therefore no attempt has been made by the people to improve the breed. Not long ago

* Dr. Francis Day's *Freshwater Fish of India*, paras 290 and 294.

an effort was made by the introduction of two Hansi bulls to improve the breed, but the people declined to use them, on the plea that they were too large and heavy for their small cows; for a commencement, the introduction of a small breed would probably succeed better; the present standard must be raised considerably before a cross with the larger and finer kind of stock can be effected."* Since these words were written nothing further has been done; there are no persons who keep bulls for breeding purposes, nor any who take an interest in the matter. The better animals are imported, being brought from the fairs held at Dehli, Hissar, Agra, Muttra and Makanpur, both by private purchasers and dealers. There was formerly a large cattle market at Thana, about eight miles from Unao, but it is now of little importance. Small local markets are also held at Ramdin Khara in pargana Bangarmau and at Kursat in Safipur, but none of the cattle fairs in the district are of any consequence.

The number of working cattle at the first regular settlement was estimated at 202,000, which gave a plough duty of about six acres. At the last settlement the number was returned at 198,512, which gave an average of one plough and a pair of bullocks to 6.13 acres of cultivation—a figure which does not denote cultivation of the highest class. In the closely cultivated tracts in the east of Oudh the average area per plough seldom exceeds five acres; and in Partabgarh, for instance, it is only 4.34 acres. A regular stock census was taken in August 1899. It was then ascertained that there were in the district 198,527 bullocks and bulls, and 20,434 male buffaloes, giving a total of 218,961 working animals. This was considerably in excess of the settlement figures, but at the same time the number of ploughs had increased from 92,586 to 99,186, so that the plough duty remained almost the same. It must be understood that all the cattle shown in this statement are not available for the plough. Besides plough-cattle, the figures include cart-bullocks, pack-animals, and animals unfit for work. The number of cattle to each plough is 2.21, so that there is certainly no available surplus. At the same census there were

110,806 cows and 73,760 cow-buffaloes, which gives a very fair average for the district. They are kept for dairy purposes, ghi being largely made for exportation as well as for local consumption. That made at Bhauli in pargana Jhalotar-Ajgain is the most esteemed and sought after. The quality of the cattle cannot be very good, for there are no true pasture lands in the district. In those villages where waste abounds, the cattle not actually at work are turned out to pick up what they can during the day, receiving a feed of chopped straw on their return at night; where there is no waste land, they are perforce entirely stall-fed.

There is very little horse-breeding in the district, and the ponies, which numbered 15,917 in 1899, are of the usual wretched description; they are chiefly employed as pack-animals, and are underfed and overladen. Goats are only kept for domestic purposes and are found in fair numbers everywhere. Sheep are found all over the district, but are not bred to any extent: the total number at the census was 46,817, which is about the general average for Oudh. In pargana Fatehpur-Chaurasi alone are there flocks of any size; they are chiefly reared for the Cawnpore markets, whither they are taken to be fattened, but the breed is small and inferior.

Cattle disease is not so prevalent in Unao as in the northern districts of Oudh, and there have been no serious outbreaks of recent years. The figures are notoriously unreliable, but they serve the purpose of a general guide. These returns are taken from the annual Revenue Administration reports of the district, but they are very incomplete. The average deaths reported from 1894 to 1903 numbered 3,544 annually, but whereas the loss of 9,359 cattle was reported in 1894 and 8,873 in the following year, the average from 1896 to 1900 was 3,164, and from 1900 onwards only 462 annually. In April 1902 the services of a Veterinary Assistant were placed at the disposal of the District Board, and in November 1903 he reported that foot-and-mouth disease was the only contagious disease prevalent in the district, although no deaths are given under this head in any year, those which occurred being probably entered under "other causes." It would seem that rinderpest was very destructive in 1894, 1895 and again in

1899 and 1900. Dysentery is always responsible for a large proportion of the mortality. Next comes anthrax, the deaths from which averaged about 500 annually up to 1898, but since that date the column is blank. Glanders appears spasmodically, and pleuro-pneumonia in only one year, 1899, when it carried off 532 animals. The question of the prevalence or otherwise of cattle disease is always a very difficult one; that it exists in Unao is undoubted, but in what forms and to what extent is largely a matter for conjecture.

The climate of Unao presents no unusual features, and resembles that of the rest of the southern portion of Oudh. The district is generally healthy, and the range of the thermometer is as a rule from 65° to 103° in the shade during the hot season, and from 46° to 79° in the cold weather. From November to May the range of temperature is considerable, being well over twenty degrees, and over thirty degrees in February. No meteorological observations, however, are taken in the district, except those of the rainfall, which is recorded at each of the tahsil headquarters. The temperature is very much the same as in Cawnpore and Lucknow.

The average annual rainfall for the whole district, as calculated from the figures of 35 years, from 1866 to 1901, is 34.69 inches. The averages for each period of five years, however, present some remarkable fluctuations. There was a cycle of wet years between 1870 and 1875, when the average fall was 40.38 inches, but for the next ten years the average was only 26 inches, and in 1880 no more than 12 inches of rain fell, producing a local scarcity as in the adjoining district of Lucknow. From 1886 to 1890 the average rose to 38.2 inches, while in the following five years, which were everywhere characterized by unusually heavy rains, the figure was no less than 44.14 inches. The greatest fall ever recorded was 75.7, and next to this comes 1870 with 63.2 inches, and 1894 with an average of 55.33 inches, this year being very wet everywhere, and floods occurring in all directions. Unusually low figures occurred in the years 1861, 1868, 1880 and 1896; in the last year the district received an average fall of 18.75 inches, or little more than half the normal rain. From 1892 to 1897 the

rainfall in each year varied by more than 23 per cent. from the average. The distribution, too, varies in different parts of the district. As in Lucknow, the rainfall is greater in the neighbourhood of the chief river, those parganas which lie in the watershed of the Ganges receiving as a rule much more rain than the inland tracts. In the last famine of 1897, the part of the district which suffered most was the north of pargana Auras-Mohan, which is furthest removed from the influence of the Ganges.

The tables given in the appendix show the number of births and deaths recorded in the district since 1891, and also the number of deaths from the more important causes.* The rates thereby obtained are only approximate, inasmuch as they were calculated from 1891 to 1901 on the figures of the census taken in the former year, and as there was a very material increase in the population during that decade, the error is necessarily considerable. The returns may be considered as fairly accurate, although of course they are ultimately dependent on the zeal and conscientiousness of the village chaukidars. The present system of record was inaugurated in 1872, and is a great improvement on the old method, as prior to that date there was no check upon the village officials at all, the latter reporting the deaths as they occurred at the police-station, where the officer in charge entered it in his diary, which was submitted at regular intervals to headquarters where the returns were compiled. The uselessness of such returns is obvious when we find that the average annual death-rate up to 1872 was only 16·6 per mille. Taking the average from 1891 to 1902, we obtain an annual birth-rate, subject to the limitation already laid down, of 36·72 per mille, and a corresponding death-rate of 30·76. In 1894, when cholera raged throughout the district, the death-rate rose to the unusual figure of 49·71 per mille; and again in the famine year of 1897 it was no less than 43. Both these years were followed by an unusually low birth-rate, but otherwise we find few noticeable variations.

Turning to the main causes of death, we find that as usual fever occupies the most prominent position. The average annual

* Appendix, Tables III and IV

number of deaths recorded as due to fever from 1891 to 1902 is 23,362 or 79·4 per cent. of the total registered mortality. The worst year was 1897, with 36,077 deaths occurring in a dry year, but at a time when the vitality of the population was lowered by privation; and next to this year comes 1894, a wet and very unhealthy year, with 33,781 deaths from fever. The figures vary with the season, but it cannot be said that there has been any general improvement during the past decade. The Unao drainage scheme, constructed as a famine relief work, has brought about a marked improvement in the health of the town and civil station, but elsewhere little has been done to improve the sanitary condition of the district.

Cholera is seldom absent from the district, and since 1891 it has only failed to appear in two years. The average annual mortality from 1891 to 1903 amounts to 1,328 or 4·1 per cent. of the total number of deaths recorded; but this figure cannot be regarded as normal, as cholera is not endemic, but only appears occasionally in an epidemic form. The disease generally commences in April or May, reaches its height about August, then declines and disappears at the end of the year. There was a severe outbreak in 1891, when 2,881 persons died, and in the following year it reappeared and carried off nearly a thousand souls. This, however, was entirely eclipsed in 1894, when cholera of a very severe type broke out in July and spread to all parts of the district. The epidemic raged till September and was particularly virulent in the towns of Unao and Purwa. The number of deaths recorded reached the appalling figure of 8,342. Among these was Mr. Penney, the Deputy Commissioner. During the following three years it remained in the district, but entirely disappeared in 1898 and 1899. There was another epidemic in 1901, when cholera claimed over 1,500 victims.

Small-pox is never entirely absent from the district, but its ravages have been greatly reduced by the spread of vaccination. Occasionally it breaks out in a violent epidemic form, notably in 1896, when 3,672 persons died of this disease. In the following year, too, the number of deaths was 939, but on no other occasion since 1890 has the death-roll been so large. 50 persons Vaccination has made considerable progress of late years

in this district. The staff consists of an Assistant Superintendent and 13 vaccinators. The average number of successful primary operations, from 1892 to 1901, was 22,467 annually and the improvement may be estimated from the fact that in the first year the total was only 10,285 as against 27,607 vaccinations in 1901. At the same time the proportion of protected persons to the total population is low, amounting to less than 19 per cent.—a figure that compares very unfavourably with those of the other districts of the Lucknow division.

The other diseases call for little comment. Dysentery is a fairly constant factor in the death-rate, and accounts for some 300 deaths annually. This disease is endemic and usually of malarious origin, prevailing in the same places and during the same months as ague. Plague appeared in 1897, but there was only one imported case, and the district remained free till the cold weather of 1902-1903, when it also visited Lucknow and Cawnpore.

The table of infirmities shown in the Census Report presents no features of peculiar interest. In 1901 there were altogether 3,736 persons afflicted—a figure which closely corresponds with those of the adjoining districts. Of these, 2,932 were blind, 419 deaf-mutes, 263 lepers and 122 insane. The proportion of blind persons is fairly high, and the prevalence of this affliction may be in part ascribed both to fever and small-pox. The other figures are in no way unusual. Leprosy is now ascribed to a fish diet, and if the theory is correct, it is by no means controverted by the presence of the disease in Unao, where fish forms a fairly regular part of the food consumed by about half the population.

CHAPTER II.

AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE.

In the appendix to this volume a statement will be found<sup>Ci
ec</sup> showing the cultivated area in each pargana of the district in 1902, the latest year of record.* It will there be seen that the total area under cultivation is 648,387 acres, or 56·7 per cent. of the total area of the district. At the time of the first regular settlement the proportion was only 51 per cent. while at the same time nearly 22 per cent. was recorded as barren and 27 per cent. as culturable, but not cultivated. Writing in 1863, Mr. Maconochie, the Settlement Officer, remarked :—"There is no reason that the cultivated area should not be largely increased; at present the average area per plough is not what it is estimated can be fairly worked by one; I believe an addition of an acre per plough would not impair the agriculture in any way, while it would add 74,000 acres to the cultivation of the district, at once."† During the currency of the settlement, in spite of a number of bad seasons, a considerable extension of cultivation was effected. In the year of verification of the last settlement it was found that the cultivated area had risen to 53·7 per cent. of the total area; if, however, instead of the single year we take the average of the previous five years, we find a much larger increase. The cause of this divergence is to be found partly in land being purposely left out of cultivation to escape assessment, and partly in the exceptionally wet seasons which prevailed while the present settlement was carried out. That the cultivation of the year of verification was not normal is proved by the fact that since the settlement there has been a still more rapid increase, for in 1902 cultivation extended over no less than 56·7

* Appendix Table V

† Settlement Report, p 58.

per cent. of the whole area of the district. At the same time, this increase is actually larger than it appears, as a very considerable tract has suffered from deterioration since 1894, necessitating large reductions of the revenue demand. The increase has been greatest in the Unao and Purwa tahsils, and least in Safipur, where the precarious nature of the low-lands militates against any rapid and permanent extension of cultivation.

The waste land of the district has already been dealt with in the preceding chapter. The culturable area is still large, amounting in 1902, to 261,524 acres or 22·8 per cent. Of this, however, no less than 64,500 acres consist of grove lands and 14,300 acres of new fallow, so that the actual area classed as capable of cultivation, but not cultivated, is only 182,700 acres. The proportion is fairly equally distributed throughout all tahsils of the district, those parganas which have the largest areas of culturable waste being Auras-Mohan, Harha and Bangarman. There has been a large decrease in the culturable area during the past ten years, for at the last settlement it amounted to no less than 25·88 per cent. This is chiefly due to extended cultivation and also to new groves. In 1895 it was observed that there had been a decrease of over 28 per cent. in the culturable waste since the first regular settlement. This was attributed to the same cause and also to the fact that some land hitherto classed as culturable was then recorded as barren. Mr. Moreland writes:—"I am not sure that this transfer was carried as far as it should: much of the land still classed as culturable looks to me, I confess, almost hopeless, though it may be possible to get a paying crop out of it in the event of a further rise in prices. There is, however, a large extent of really culturable land in the tarai tract; hitherto it has not been brought under the plough owing to danger from floods and the want of cultivators. Residence in these tracts is not generally liked as they are unhealthy and inconvenient of access, and much of the cultivation is in the hands of castes such as Kewats and Mallahs, who naturally keep near the river. It seems probable that, if population continues to increase and new industries do not spring up, this land may in time come under cultivation. Apart from this there is little room for any profitable exte in the

district."* Much of the old fallow, too, can hardly be called cultivable, since it for the most part consists of land which has been abandoned because it did not yield a profitable return and is not likely to be again cultivated.

The most noticeable development of recent years has been the extension of the double-cropped area. At the first regular settlement this was returned at only 10,969 acres, while on the average of the five years prior to the last settlement the area was 137,567 acres, or about one-fourth of the total cultivated area of the district. To some extent the large increase shown is probably due to the imperfect record of the former assessment, but making every deduction for this the fact remains that the double-cropped area has largely increased. That this is not only a temporary phenomenon is manifest from the fact that in 1902 the area bearing a double crop had risen to 171,963 acres, or 26·5 per cent. of the cultivation. This increase is closely connected with the variations in the relative importance of the principal crops, which will be dealt with later. It is worthy of note, however, that whereas in the western districts of the United Provinces the double-cropped land is almost wholly confined to those soils which possess ample means of irrigation, in Unao by far the greater part of this area is unirrigated. It may be observed, however, that the greatest areas of *do-fasli* land are in those parganas which contain a large proportion of tarai, in which the soil contains sufficient moisture to give good spring crops without artificial irrigation. Generally speaking, the greater proportion of the double-cropped area represents the rice lands on which a second crop of gram or peas is often raised, while the rest consists of the best land which, with a full supply of water and manure, appears to produce two crops a year for a considerable period without showing any signs of exhaustion.

The prevailing system of agriculture in Unao in no way differs from that common to the surrounding districts, and consequently it is hardly necessary to enter into a detailed description. We find the usual harvests known by the usual names. As usual in Oudh, the later kharif crops are generally known

as the *henwat*. The *zaid* or intermediate crops are of not much importance, the average area cultivated in this harvest since 1898 being less than 6,500 acres. The supply of manure is derived from the ordinary village refuse heap, except on lands held by Kachhis and Kurmis, where the manure is often carefully prepared from the materials available with every possible economy. In the neighbourhood of those towns in which a system of scavenging has been introduced there is no difficulty in disposing of the night-soil and refuse, which are readily bought by the cultivators, and on the whole it may be said that the demand exceeds the supply. Artificial manures are unknown, and liquid manure is generally wasted.

At the time of the first regular settlement the area sown in the kharif was very much less than that of the rabi harvest, the difference amounting to over 18 per cent.; it was very much more marked in all parts of the district except the Purwa tahsil, where there has always been a preponderance on the part of the kharif. Since that date, however, the relative positions of the two harvests have undergone a material change. At the last settlement the two areas were approximately equal, and in the five years preceding the year of verification the difference only amounted to somewhat over three per cent. in favour of the rabi. This was attributed in some degree to the extension of the system of double-cropping, although the enormously increased area under rice was due to the breaking up of poorer land which is fit for this crop only. Connected with the former is the tendency to diminish the area under wheat and to substitute for that crop maize followed by pulses, or cotton or millets sown together with arhar: as the last crop is harvested in the spring, its sowing is practically equivalent to double-cropping. Since the settlement this tendency has developed to a remarkable extent. Taking the average of the five years ending 1902, we find that the kharif harvest largely exceeds the rabi in area, with the exception of the Safipur tahsil alone; the difference amounts to an average of over 25,300 acres or over seven per cent., while in Mohan it is over 20 per cent. Mr. Moreland writes:—"The immediate result of this change of system is to give a double outturn but the system is generally

condemned as tending to exhaust the soil. I question, however, whether there is reason to believe that such is the case: if the soil is being impoverished it is almost certainly due to the extraction of nitrogen, the deficiency of which is the most unfavourable feature of the soils of Northern India. Now it is a well-known fact that certain leguminous plants are enabled to obtain nitrogen from the air and therefore their cultivation tends if anything to enrich rather than deprive the soil of this element. It will be noticed that in the system of double-cropping carried on in this district some form of pulse enters into almost every combination, gram or peas being most generally sown (whether alone or mixed with barley) as the spring crop, and arhar being commonly sown with cotton or millets. These pulses—gram, peas, and arhar—are closely allied to the leguminous plants whose power of assimilating atmospheric nitrogen has been established, and though the power of Indian pulses to act in a similar way has not been experimentally proved, it is at least highly probable.* If these pulses do in fact assimilate atmospheric nitrogen, there can be no doubt that the new system is more economical than the continued growth of wheat, and in any case there are at present no sufficient grounds for condemning it as exhausting the soil. In this connection I may give the following extract from a letter which Dr. J. W. Leather, Agricultural Chemist to the Government of India, has kindly permitted me to make use of: "I do not know of any one who has made definite experiments with either gram or arhar; but so far as experiments have been with plants of the same natural order, they show conclusively that the leguminosæ do assimilate atmospheric nitrogen, and one would naturally expect to find that these crops do likewise. It is a fact that the soils of India are very much in need of nitrogen, or I should say that the amount they contain is extremely small when compared with European soils. Consequently I should not hesitate to express the opinion that cotton with arhar or maize, followed by gram, would not exhaust the soil more than wheat, and it may be that it is more economical cropping than the latter."†

* Cf. para. 60 of Dr. J. A. Voelcker's "Report on the Improvement of Indian Agriculture."

† *Final Report*, p. 16

Rice covers a larger area than any other kharif crop, amounting to 24·64 per cent. of the harvest. The largest areas under rice are in the Mohan and Purwa tahsils. There has been a very remarkable increase in the rice area since 1865, for in that year it only covered 39,196 acres, or 15·5 per cent. of the kharif harvest, whereas at the last settlement it had risen to over 100,000 acres or 29·7 per cent., and since that date has shown a still further extension, although the proportionate increase in other crops has been more rapid. This expansion of the rice area has not been effected at the cost of any other crop, but has been obtained by the extension of cultivation to lands which had hitherto remained untilled.

Almost equally large is the area under juar, which amounts to 23·2 per cent. of the kharif harvest for the whole district. Over two-thirds of the crop are grown in the Unao and Purwa tahsils, while in Mohan the area is comparatively small. Juar is usually mixed with arhar and is grown in the better soils; in those tracts where there is a larger proportion of sand its place is generally taken by bajra which also is commonly sown together with arhar. Thus bajra covers a larger area than any other kharif crop in both the Mohan and Safipur tahsils, the former especially having a larger amount of inferior soil. There has been a considerable decrease in the area occupied by juar and bajra of late years, for at the first regular settlement they together covered over 56 per cent. of the kharif harvest; this had sunk to 42·25 per cent. at the last settlement, while the average during the past five years is very little higher. Their place has largely been taken by maize, a crop which has increased in popularity and to an extraordinary extent of late years. In 1865 it covered less than 3,000 acres, whereas in 1902 it had increased to over 45,300 acres, more than half of which is to be found in the Safipur tahsil alone. It is noticeable that its cultivation is not popular in Purwa, where there are less than 500 acres under this crop.

The cultivation of cotton has also made substantial progress. Mr. Maconochie stated that—"Cotton does not appear to succeed well. During the American war when prices ranged high, a good deal was grown, but as prices fell off its cultivation

declined, and I do not think it will ever become a favourite staple." The figures of his settlement show that the area under cotton was then only 7,222 acres or 2·86 per cent. of the kharif harvest. During the following thirty years it increased to an average of over 28,000 acres for the five years preceding the last revision, and covered nearly eight per cent. of the cultivated area. The increase was most noticeable in the Mohan and Safipur tahsils. The area constantly varies from year to year according to the state of the market; but the crop is a valuable one and its increase is a favourable sign. Another crop which has made considerable progress is sugarcane. This covered over 16,000 acres in 1895, having nearly doubled its area since the former settlement. It is chiefly grown in the Purwa tahsil, but the most rapid increase has been in pargana Bangarmau. Indigo has practically disappeared from the district and its total extinction seems only the matter of time. The remaining crops which are grouped together as "miscellaneous" show a distinct decrease; this is due to the fact that a much smaller area is now devoted in the kharif to kodon and the other small millets.

Turning to the rabi crops we find, as has been already noticed, a striking diminution in the area of wheat. In 1865 no less than 83,645 acres were under wheat alone and over 38,000 acres were sown with wheat along with other crops, the two together covering over 40 per cent. of the total rabi harvest. At the last settlement the area under pure wheat had fallen to 66,000 acres or 19·26 per cent., and that of wheat in combination to 37,000 acres or 10·77 per cent. During the subsequent years there has been a slight improvement, the area under pure wheat rising to 22·67 per cent. and that of wheat mixed with barley to 14·37 per cent. The area under wheat alone is largest in Mohan, and of wheat in combination in Purwa. Generally speaking, there is still a strong tendency in favour of mixed crops, which would tend to show that but little attention is paid to the export trade. Barley sown alone covered only ten per cent. of the rabi area, while in combination with gram it amounts to no less than 31·43 per cent., this being notably the case in the Unao tahsil. Gram is sown by itself to a large

extent in every part of the district, the average proportion being 12.22 per cent. Of the remaining rabi crops the only one deserving of mention is poppy. This has grown in favour of late years and now shows an average of over 5,000 acres annually. At the first regular settlement there was no opium cultivation in the district. In 1888 cultivation of the poppy was still prohibited in the Baiswara parganas, Pariar, Sikandarpur and Harha. In the last three cultivation was resumed in the succeeding year, but in the Baiswara the prohibition is still in force. It is worth noting that the yield of opium per acre in this district is exceptionally high and it may be predicted that the crop will rapidly grow in favour.

Irrigation in this district is conducted by means of wells, tanks and other sources, the latter consisting chiefly of the small streams in the interior. In the matter of the supply of water the condition of the district as a whole is fairly satisfactory. The riverside lands generally retain moisture sufficient to produce good spring crops without irrigation; on the uplands the large number of lakes and swamps and the evenness of their distribution provide a supply for a large proportion of the cultivated area; a certain amount of water is obtained from the Sai and the smaller streams, and where surface water is not available wells are readily made. At the time of the first settlement the irrigated area amounted to 51.61 per cent. of the cultivation, the proportion being highest in Purwa and Unao and lowest in Safipur. It seems that the irrigated area of the old records is really the area which in the opinion of the *amins* should occasionally receive irrigation; whereas the present figures show the area actually irrigated in each year. At the last settlement the irrigated area was only 40.73 per cent. of the cultivation. This apparent decrease is due to a difference in the method of preparing the statistics. It would have been more satisfactory if the average figures for a period of years had been taken; but this suggestion was made too late; and although the figures for a single year are somewhat misleading on account of variations in the seasons, they are sufficiently precise to show that in ordinary years the district possesses an adequate water supply. Putting as do the best lands which

are highly manured and yield two crops in each year, the prevailing rotation of crops only requires irrigation once in two years. If the land was under this rotation a figure of 50 per cent. would indicate a sufficiency of irrigation. There are, however, large areas which are not irrigated in the Ganges valley, where the soil retains its moisture long enough to give good spring crops; at the same time the extensive areas of rice land must be placed on the same footing. This crop is very frequently irrigated, but it has not been the custom in this district to record this fact, and all land bearing rice only has been classed as dry. Allowing for these two classes of land, it will be seen that throughout the district there is an adequate supply of water except in single villages or small groups, in which water is hard to procure owing to the sandy nature of the sub-soil or some similar cause. The number of these villages is not, however, great, and they have already been referred to in dealing with the precarious tracts. We may take the year 1902, the last for which figures are available, as fairly typical. The irrigated area then amounted to 230,958 acres or over 37 per cent. of the cultivation. That a much greater area could be irrigated if necessary will be seen from the extent to which the various sources of irrigation were employed in that year.

An examination of these sources is most important in considering the security of the district; wells are the surest method of protection, as tanks and streams supply least water when most needed. Mr. Moreland writes: "It will be seen that of the total irrigated area (at the settlement of 1895) 45.13 per cent. is supplied from wells, the balance from tanks and rivers; while at the last settlement the percentage was 64.78. The falling off is due partly to errors in the old record and partly to the series of wet seasons to which a reference has already been made, and which appear to have had a threefold effect. In the first place artificial irrigation is rendered in some cases unnecessary; in the second place, the level of the tanks and rivers is raised so that more land can be profitably irrigated from these sources; and in the third place, the rise of the water level causes unprotected earthen wells to collapse. The difference in the figures is therefore accidental and does not give

rise to the inference that in years of drought the district is protected to a less extent than was formerly the case. The opposite is in fact true : at the last settlement there were 3,992 masonry wells in existence, while 8,068 have been constructed in the interval, so that there are 12,060 wells in the district, and there has been a substantial advance in this important matter. In addition to the masonry wells it is certain that in the event of a dry season temporary wells can be successfully made in these tracts where the water level is at present too high ; on the whole it may be said that the water-supply of the district is adequate in ordinary years, but that the construction of more masonry wells is very desirable in order to protect against the recurrence of years of deficient rainfall."* In nearly every pargana of the district earthen unprotected wells are easily dug at a comparatively small cost, the average price in the upper lands being from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6. and the wells lasting from two to six years. This is the general average of the district, as in many places they last much longer, while in others they fall in as soon as the rains commence. The depth of water from the surface of the ground varies considerably, but the average may be set down at twenty feet, while as a rule the well contains about ten feet of water. There are considerable tracts in which it is necessary to line the wells throughout with masonry, and this area is wont to increase after a series of wet seasons. At the same time, however, the injurious effects of such seasons on the cultivators is greatly lessened by the simultaneous extension of the lakes and swamps, giving a largely increased supply of surface water. In 1902 the area irrigated from wells was 137,807 acres, or over 59 per cent. of the irrigated area. This figure was obtained after a series of comparatively dry years ; but it should be observed that the conditions of irrigation have distinctly changed since the famine of 1897, which gave a great impetus to the construction of wells all over the district. The number of masonry wells now available for irrigation is returned at 18,830, but of these less than 12,000 were actually employed in 1902. The number is largest in the Purwa tahsil and smallest in *Safgar*. Besides these there are over 1,500 wells of half *nry*

in all parts of the district, but especially in Purwa and Unao. The unprotected wells numbered 39,400 and are fairly equally distributed throughout the entire area. Wells are ordinarily worked by a bullock-run, though in cases where the water is not far from the surface many cultivators prefer to substitute labourers for bullocks as being more efficient and able to irrigate a larger area in a given time. Most of the labour is supplied by the cultivator's family, but the common custom is for the cultivators to unite together and help each other in turn to irrigate their fields. Where water is close to the surface the ordinary form of lever lift is in general use.

The number of tanks available for irrigation is returned at 17,234, but of these less than half were employed in 1902. Recourse is made to them chiefly in the Mohan and Purwa tahsils; in all 78,274 acres were thus watered, or 30 per cent. of the total irrigated area. The other sources are responsible for the remaining eleven per cent. The area so irrigated varies greatly in different parts of the district: in many parganas the streams are either not used or only used to a very small extent. The Sai is the most important, as the largest areas irrigated from other sources are in the parganas of Auras-Mohan and Mauranwan. In Bangarmau and Fatehpur-Chaurasi the Kalyani is used somewhat extensively, while the Loni, Tinai and Gurdhoi are available in the south and south-west.

The district having been for a long time fairly protected by means of well irrigation is not affected by minor droughts; at the same time it has not escaped from the famines which have visited the province of Oudh from time to time. There are practically no records regarding the earlier famines in this district, but it may generally be assumed that they occurred at the same time and in the same degree as in the adjoining district of Lucknow. We merely know that Unao was seriously affected by the famines of 1769, 1783 and 1838. After annexation the droughts of 1861, 1865 and 1869 occasioned a rise in prices which led to considerable distress. In 1865 the price of wheat rose to an average of 16·65 sers to the rupee, while in the following year it was even higher, the average for wheat being 15·18 sers and of barley 21·5. In

1873 and 1874 grain was at a very high rate owing to bad harvests and the exports to Bengal. Wheat rose to an average of 16·38 sers—a figure which at that time meant real scarcity. The average prices, however, are of little use as a guide, as they varied at different seasons of the year. As in other districts, prices are at their highest in January and February, before the spring harvest is reaped, and again in July and August, before the cutting of the autumn crops. Barley is the cheapest grain in the latter period, and kodon and bajra in the former; famine is only to be apprehended when the prices of these cheapest grains rise above a certain figure. The ordinary food of the people consists of the cheaper grains of maize, rice and kodon in the five months ending with March, and of peas, barley, gram and pulses during the rest of the year. If any of these grains rise in price, it will be abandoned for a cheaper and inferior kind.

A more serious famine occurred in 1877 and 1878, although it was less felt in the south-east of the district than elsewhere in the Lucknow division. There was some distress in August 1877, but at the commencement a considerable proportion of the population had something to fall back upon. Relief works were opened on the 2nd of October 1877, and continued in operation throughout the cold weather, closing in the last week of March 1878. The maximum attendance in any one week was recorded for that ending the 14th of March, when 44,371 persons were employed. The works consisted of the collection of metal on the provincial road and improving the local roads, especially that from Unao to Bihar and Purwa. The people suffered considerably throughout the cold weather, and especially in Auras-Mohan. In February four poor-houses were opened at the tahsíl headquarters, but that at Unao alone was of any size, the average attendance being 304 persons. When harvesting operations commenced a rapid fall occurred in the demand for relief. The works were deserted and closed, and the attendance in poor-houses dwindled down to 173. It was found impossible, however, to close the central poor-house, though throughout May and June the number remained stationary at about sixty persons, almost all of whom were

physically incapable of work of any kind. The outturn of the rabi harvest was up to the average on the higher lands, but inferior in the low and outlying tracts. In the beginning of May the price of wheat ranged from 11 to 15 sérs and no marked fall in prices occurred. Symptoms of distress reappeared in parts of the district at the beginning of June, and relief works were started at Sheikhpur and at Bihar; the latter however, was only kept open for a few days. The numbers increased towards the end of July, and in the middle of August, 1878, the daily average number of persons employed was about 1,400. It seems that many well-to-do labourers attended the works, for with the introduction of a reduced scale of wages on the 20th of August the attendance fell off rapidly, and the works were closed in the last week of September. The poor-house at Unao was closed in the middle of December, 1878, by which time its necessity had entirely disappeared.

The scanty rainfall of 1880 occasioned some scarcity, but there was no necessity for any famine operations in the district. From that year forward the harvests were at least up to the average till 1896, when famine again visited the district. The distress was most severely felt in those tracts where well irrigation was deficient, the district at that time being very unevenly protected in this respect. It was most severe in the northern part of Harha, Sikandarpur, parts of Jhalotar-Ajgain, the northern villages of Safipur, the upper circles of Bangarman and Fatehpur-Chaurasi, the north of Auras-Mohan, and parts of Asoha, Purwa and Mauranwan, and the upland villages of Ghatampur and Daundia Khera. Generally speaking, the Baiswara parganas escaped, but elsewhere there was an almost equal failure of the kharif crops. In the succeeding rabi harvest the cultivated area was seriously contracted, and the outturn was estimated at only 42 per cent. of the normal. Relief works were started all over the district, the first being the improvement of the road from Pariar to Hasanganj commenced on the 15th of December, 1896. Other works were opened from time to time until May 1897, the most important being the drainage scheme for the town of Unao and the

improvement of the roads from Auras to Mohan, from Mohan to Bangarmau, and from Bihar to Purwa and Nawabganj. These works remained open throughout the first half of 1897 and the last was closed on the 7th of August. At the end of December, 1896, the number of persons on relief was 6,247; during January there was a rapid increase, the numbers rising to 34,773 at the end of the month. The increase was maintained throughout February, and on the last day of that month the number stood at nearly 49,000. From that date they began to decline, and on the 24th of April 1897 there were less than 5,000 persons in receipt of relief. After the rabi harvest, however, they again rose rapidly, and at the end of May the figure was given as 20,632. The numbers declined during the month of June and still more noticeably in July, the total at the end of that month being only 427. At the end of August all relief stopped. By way of further relief suspension of the revenue demand was sanctioned to the extent of Rs. 7,79,024; of this over two-thirds were for the kharif harvest of 1897, and the bulk of the remainder for the following rabi. Of these suspensions over two lakhs of rupees were ultimately remitted—a sum equivalent to 13·44 per cent. of the total demand of the district.

Closely connected with the history of famines is that of prices. Generally speaking, it would seem that prices are higher in Unao than in other parts of Oudh, this being due to the neighbourhood of the great marts of Cawnpore and Lucknow, the former especially being an important centre of the export trade in grain. Unfortunately there are for this district no reliable statistics of the retail prices of agricultural produce, those that exist being very fragmentary and in many cases obviously incorrect. Mr. Moreland, who went into the subject at great length, came to the conclusion that a more accurate record might be found in the average of prices for the four surrounding districts of Lucknow, Cawnpore, Hardoi and Rai Bareilly. He was of the opinion that the proximity of Cawnpore and the Ganges only influenced prices up to and from a few years after annexation, and that provision could be made for the difference by taking the average of two rural and two urban districts.

In this manner he obtained a table of average prices since 1861 of the four principal staples—wheat, barley, rice and juar—which between them occupy nearly four-fifths of the cultivated area of the district. It must be noted, however, that the prices thus obtained are generally much cheaper than those recorded by Mr. Maconochie in 1874 and also than the retail prices which have ruled at Unao since 1890. It is possible that the state of the Unao market does not fairly represent the state of the district as a whole, as it is on the line of rail and therefore must be influenced by the export trade. As the figures for single years are apt to be misleading owing to accidental causes, the history of prices will be more accurately observed by grouping them in quinquennial periods. The result thus obtained was that from 1861 to 1870 prices rose by 29·1 per cent. From 1871 to 1875 there was a considerable fall in prices, the total rise since 1861 being only 13·3 per cent. During the next five years they again rose slightly, the average in 1880 being 18·2 per cent. above that of 1861. From 1881 to 1885 prices ruled very low, the difference between the averages of 1885 and 1861 being no more than 8·3 per cent. From 1886 onwards there was a very rapid rise in prices, and in 1894, the year of settlement, the average was no less than 39·4 per cent. above that of 1861. The rise is illustrated by the fact that while from 1861 to 1865 as much as 25 sérs of grain could be bought for a rupee, in the four years ending 1894 the amount obtainable was only 18 sérs. It will be seen that prices were very high from 1866 to 1870—a fact which is due to the scarcity in 1869, when prices touched the highest point hitherto recorded. Allowing for this exceptional year, it appears that there was a distinct rise of prices commencing from about 1864, which maintained itself with the usual fluctuations till 1880; after that year there appears to have been some tendency towards a fall, but in 1887 a marked rise set in, which has continued to the present time. In 1901 it was estimated that the normal prices were 14·2 sérs for wheat, 19 sérs for barley, 19·25 sérs for juar and 12 sérs for common rice. The present averages are, however, again upset by the inclusion of the famine year of 1897 as the average for wheat was then less than nine sérs and barley and juar about ten sérs each.

Mr. Morland writes: "There can be little doubt that the rise of prices established in the decade 1861—1870 was due to the opening out of the province in the early years of British rule. Communications were extended and protection was afforded to life and property; it thus became possible to trade in security over large areas, and with an increased supply of currency, the demand for, and price of, agricultural produce naturally rose. The origin of the second and more marked rise in prices must be sought elsewhere, as there is no corresponding development in the period of its occurrence. To a certain extent it is to be found in the excessively wet seasons of the last five or six years, but the main cause is generally held to be connected with the fall in the gold value of silver. The question is one which can hardly be treated adequately within the limits of this report, as it would require an examination of statistics for the whole of India or rather for the whole world, and I pass on to the question whether prices are likely to maintain their present level. It seems on the whole probable that the earlier rise in prices has been established permanently, and that the level will never fall to that which prevailed thirty years ago. As to the rise which commenced in 1886-87, there appears to be more room for hesitation, as bad seasons are not likely to continue and it is to be hoped that the gold value of silver will rise; there are thus grounds for thinking that whatever be the cause of the second rise in prices it may not be maintained in its entirety."* It must be noted, however, that these remarks have lost much of their force at the present day. At the time of the settlement the value of the rupee had not been fixed, and it yet remains to be seen whether the permanent artificial rate of exchange will have any lasting favourable influence on the prices. The hope that this may be so certainly finds little support from the figures of the past few years.

There is nothing at all peculiar about the weights and measures in use in the district. For measuring land the ordinary standard bigha is invariably employed, this being equivalent, as everywhere, to 3,025 square yards. This was the bigha in use during Nawabi times and this fact probably accounts for the

entire absence of any local measure of area. For measures of weight, too, the ordinary standard is the Government sér of 80 tolas or 14,400 grains. Besides this, there is a local *pakka sér* of 96 tolas or 17,280 grains, which is sometimes used. This large sér is also found in Rai Bareli and appears to have been originally derived from a weight of 100 Lucknow rupees of 173 grains each. When the native coinage went out of use, the Banias, with their natural tendency to reduce weights when possible, would at once substitute 96 of the new rupees for the old weight, and thus effect a modest saving in every sér.

The prevailing rates of interest are very much the same as in the adjoining districts. As a general rule it may be stated that in small transactions, where ornaments are given in pawn, the rate is six pies per rupee per mensem, or 37.5 per cent. per annum. Sometimes, however, the rate falls as low as three pies per rupee, or 18.75 per cent., while the common rate of one rupee per cent. per mensem is also frequently met with. Where real property is mortgaged, the usual rate is somewhat less, amounting generally to 12 annas per cent. per mensem, or 8 per cent. per annum. For larger transactions recourse is readily made to the banking houses of Lucknow, Cawnpore and this district. In former days the great banking firm was that of Chandan Lal at Mauranwan, whose family rose to wealth and influence through money-lending; but soon after annexation the family withdrew largely from trade and lived chiefly on their estates. Their place was taken by several Cawnpore houses who established agents at Unao. At the last census of 1901 there were over five thousand bankers and bankers' clerks; most of these represent the ordinary village mahájan, but there are about a dozen large banking firms of Brahmans with headquarters in the Bihar and Ghátampur parganas and branches in various parts of eastern Bengal and Chhota Nágpur. Loans are most frequently made in grain, the cultivators being largely dependent on the Banias for seed. Such advances are usually repaid in kind, and as the grain is borrowed when its price is highest and returned when it is cheapest, the lenders generally contrive to get an exorbitant percentage out of the cultivators. It is a us system, but the only remedy is increased providence

on the part of the landowners and their tenants. The price of land varies and statistics of sales are notoriously unreliable for striking an average, as so much depends on the peculiar conditions of each transaction. Generally speaking, it may be said that in buying villages and land a return is looked for which will bring in from five to seven per cent. on the outlay.

Unao is a purely agricultural district, and trade is limited to supplying the ordinary wants of the inhabitants. In 1865 the Settlement Officer wrote: "The commerce of the district is small, and chiefly carried on by traders resident at Mauranwan, Purwa, Bangarmau, Muradabad, and some of the small ganjes scattered through the district. The principal exports are grain of all kinds, gur, ghi and tobacco, a little indigo and saltpetre. The latter is almost entirely shipped to Calcutta. The other articles are, for the most part, sent across the Ganges, either to Cawnpore, Bilhaur or Fatehgarh. The chief imports are European cloth, salt, iron, cotton, spices and similar necessaries required for the consumption of a rural population."* No data were then available from which reliable figures could be obtained for estimating the amount of these exports and imports; and the same remark applies to-day. Thirty years later Mr. Moreland states: "It has not been possible to obtain any figures showing the whole amount of traffic in the district, and the following must be taken merely as indications of the general flow of trade. The rail-borne traffic at Ajgain and Unao for the last four years (1892 to 1895) shows an annual export of 1,700 tons of general merchandize against an import of 610 tons. Railway stores show the large export of 835 tons a year. The statistics available do not show what classes of goods are dealt in; but I learn that the exports of goods are almost entirely grain, while the railway stores consist principally of kankar for ballast. The figures for general merchandize would show a larger excess of exports but for the very heavy imports of grain made in 1894, to meet the partial failure of the autumn crops. These figures take no account of the large volume of trade that goes by road to Cawnpore and to the various stations in the Lucknow district. no figures for this are available but the traffic to

Cawnpore is very great."* The railway of late years has very largely supplanted the road-borne traffic. In 1873 the export of general merchandize from Unao and Ajgain was only 190 tons, as against an import of 98 tons. It cannot be said, however, that the opening of the railway or of any roads has had any marked effect on the prosperity of the towns and markets in this district. For all practical purposes the grain trade is the only trade of Unao, and this is almost entirely an export trade, the bulk of the superfluous produce of the district being still conveyed by carts, not by railway, to Cawnpore.

The manufactures of the district are of singularly little importance. Not only is there no handicraft peculiar to Unao, but no single reference is made to this district in any of the monographs on the various industries of the province. In former days there were large indigo and salt works at different places, but these were closed at annexation. Indigo was extensively grown in the parganas of Harha, Bangarmau and part of Safipur. There were two large factories during Nawabi rule—one near the Ganges in Harha, and the other at Miyan-ganj established by Miyan Almas Ali Khan; both went to ruin in the latter days of Oudh rule, and the people ceased growing the plant. After annexation a factory was started at Muradabad; but this, too, has dropped out of existence with the general decline in the trade, and now very little indigo is grown in the district. Saltpetre was manufactured up to 1877 by a Lucknow firm, but the owner in that year left Lucknow and the house was broken up. At the present time the chief manufacture of the district is that of brass and copper utensils. These are made at Bhagwantnagar and Newalganj, both of which places have a considerable local reputation, and also at Muradabad, whence they are exported to the neighbouring bazárs of the Hardoi district. Country cloth is made for local consumption at several places, especially Newalganj, but the outturn is not large. In the villages of Bidhun in tahsil Unao and at Jamalnagar in Safipur printed cotton floor-cloths, quilts and bedding are manufactured and sold at the adjoining markets of Mallanwan Madhoganj and Sandila in Hardoi

The markets are numerous and well distributed over the district, but individually they are of no great size. Besides the open markets at the different bazárs, there are numerous smaller ones held once or twice a week at all the chief villages in each pargana for the convenience of the neighbouring villagers, who there dispose of their surplus produce and supply themselves with their few necessities. A list of all the markets, showing the day or days on which they are held, will be found in the appendix. "Formerly the principal marts were held at the bathing fairs at Pariar and other places on the Ganges and the fair at Kusumbhi; but now, though the fairs have lost little of their popularity as religious and social institutions, the amount of trade is almost nominal. It is a generally recognised fact that the importance of such fairs diminishes as the country is developed and facilities are multiplied for obtaining goods at numerous fixed marts; Unao has reached this stage of progress; but there are as yet few signs of the next step, the supersession of markets held on fixed days by shops and places of business open daily throughout the year."*

There are several fairs and religious gatherings of some importance held in the district; but their popularity appears to have decreased of late years in most cases. A list of them will be found in the appendix to this volume. The largest is that at Pariar, the headquarters of the pargana of that name in the Unao tahsíl. The principal object is bathing in the Ganges, but it is also the largest commercial fair of the district, a considerable business being carried on in cloth, blankets and other articles. It is held at the full moon of Kártik and lasts for about a week, although formerly it covered a period extending over ten or fifteen days. The attendance is usually somewhat less than 100,000 persons, but thirty years ago twice that number assembled, and in Nawábi days most of the Hindu nobles resorted hither. A small proportion of pilgrims come by rail to Bithur in the Cawnpore district, and thence cross the river to Pariar. Contemporaneously with this fair, other assemblages occur at Kulhuagarha on the banks of the Ganges in pargana Harha, and at Nanamanghat in the Safipur tahsíl. The attendance at each of

these is about 50,000 persons, but the former was once of very much greater importance: it is only patronized by people from the neighbourhood and is almost wholly religious in character, although formerly a fair amount of trade was carried on. A very popular fair is the Kusahri, held at the village of Kusumbhi in the Mohan tahsil. It occurs on the full moon of Baisakh, and lasts for a week, attracting some 70,000 people, of whom about 10,000 are estimated to arrive by railway at Ajgain station. The fair is held in honour of Debi, and is mainly of a religious character, although some trade in cloth and other articles is carried on. The worshippers ask some boon of the Goddess, and in the event of its being granted sacrifice a goat at the next annual gathering. Lastly, we may mention the fairs known as Takya Muhabbat Shah, which are held at Patan in the Purwa tahsil in March and December and last for a few days. These fairs are attended by some 80,000 persons, who assemble in honour of the Faqir Muhabbat Shah and also to deal in cloth, blankets, silk and the like. In 1875 the estimated average attendance was nearly twice the present number. There are in reality no shrines of note or famous places of pilgrimage in the district. In almost every pargana there are temples with some local interest attached to them, but none which require special remark, unless perhaps the temples at Pariar, which being, situated on the banks of the Ganges and opposite Bithur, have borrowed some of the reputed sanctity of the latter locality. None the less, the number of fairs, great and small, held in the Unao district is unusually large, as will be seen from the list. Most of them are, however, too insignificant to call for any remark. It will be noticed that in the Purwa and Mohan tahsils the fairs are not very numerous, but in Safipur especially there is a very great number of unimportant fairs attended by only a few hundred persons.

The district is fairly well provided with means of communication. There is only one line of railway within its limits, the Cawnpore-Lucknow branch of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway which runs through the centre and has stations at Cawnpore bridge Unao and Ajgain. The land was apphed for

early in 1864, and handed over to the railway authorities after payment of compensation to the zamíndárs by August of the same year. The engineering works were completed, and the line opened for traffic in May 1867. Parallel to this runs the metre-gauge line of the same system which was opened in April 1897. The total length of this railway through the district is 26 miles. On the broad-gauge line three trains run daily each way, and two trains daily in each direction on the metre-gauge. The only important bridge on the railway is that over the Ganges; it is 2,572 feet in length, and consists of 23 spans of 100 feet, two spans of 96 feet and two spans of 40 feet. It was opened on the 15th of July 1875. The main line of the same railway passes close along the north-eastern border of the district in pargana Malihabad of Lucknow, and affords a ready means of communication to those parts.

The roads of the district fall under two main heads, provincial and local, the former being managed by the Public Works Department and the latter by the District Board. A list of all the roads of the district, specifying their length and class, will be found in the appendix. The provincial roads are two in number. The first is the Oudh Trunk road from Lucknow to Cawnpore and Fyzabad. It passes through the station of Unao and the old tahsíl headquarters of Nawábganj. Its total length from the north bank of the Ganges to the boundary of the Lucknow district is 29 miles 6 furlongs; and the average cost of maintenance Rs. 234 per mile annually. This road was constructed during Nawabi times, by Wajid Ali Shah, the last king of Oudh, and up to the mutiny was the only metalled road of any length within the province. It formed the route taken by General Havelock when advancing to the relief of Lucknow in 1857, and on it were fought some of his severest actions. There is a dák bungalow on this road at Unao, inspection bungalows at Nawábganj and Mansukhera on the banks of the Ganges, and encamping-grounds at Unao and Nawábganj. The other road of this class is a short feeder road of less than half a mile in length leading to the Ajgain railway station.

The local roads are divided into four classes. These are known as first class roads metalled bridged and drained

throughout; second class roads, unmetalled, bridged and drained throughout; third class roads, unmetalled, banked and surfaced, but not drained; and fourth class roads, unmetalled, banked but not surfaced, partially bridged and drained. The metalled roads are maintained by the Public Works Department at the expense of the District Board. In 1903 they had a total aggregate length of 71 miles 2 furlongs, the cost of their maintenance being Rs. 224 per mile. The second class roads are 165 miles in length and the yearly amount allotted for their repair, including bridges and culverts, gives an approximate average cost of Rs. 25 a mile. The third class roads are 203 miles 5 furlongs in length and are maintained at an approximate average cost of Rs. 15 per mile. The fourth class roads are only six in number, and have a total length of 41 miles; they are only to be described as fair weather roads, the average cost of maintenance being Rs. 6 per mile. In addition to these aligned roads, there are numerous cart tracks leading everywhere across the district, these form a sufficient means of communication for certainly eight months of the year. Owing to the nature of the country the whole district can be traversed with considerable facility at any time between the months of October and June.

The first class local roads, excluding those within the station of Unao, which have an aggregate length of 4 miles 4 furlongs, are five in number. The longest of these is that from Unao to Rai Bareli, which leaves the provincial road about four miles east of Unao and runs through Purwa and Mauranwan. This is now metalled as far as Mauranwan, but was till recently a second class road. Its completion will probably be taken in hand shortly. Through Unao passes the old Nawábi road from Hardoi to Dalmau and Allahabad, which was known as an imperial highway at an early date. The portion from Unao to Hardoi is metalled as far as Safipur, a distance of 17 miles; the remainder, from Safipur to Bangarmau and Hardoi, is still of the second class. The traffic is heavy and the surface is indifferent; the portion between Safipur and Bangarmau is almost impassable during the rains, so much so that persons coming from Unao prefer to cross the Ganges and to travel by rail from Bilhaur in the Cawnpore district. The southern portion of this road

from Unao to Dalmau is metalled as far as Bikrampur on the southern boundary of pargana Harha. It is in excellent condition, the traffic being comparatively light. The metalling of this road from Achalganj to Bikrampur was only completed in 1903. The fourth road of this class is that from Ajgain on the provincial road to Mohan and the tahsili station of Hasanganj. This is 14 miles in length and has been recently metalled. The last consists of a small portion, three miles in length, of the road from Unao to Sandila. The metalling only extends as far as the Government babul plantation at Abbaspur, three miles north of Unao.

Of the second class roads the most important is the continuation of the last-named road from Abbaspur to Rasulabad, Auras and Sandila. It was constructed in 1864 and is a largely frequented highway. There is an inspection bungalow at Auras. Next comes the remainder of the road from Unao and Safipur to Bangarman, Muradabad and Hardoi. From Bikrampur, on the southern continuation of this road, the remainder of the road to Dalmau is unmetalled. A similar branch takes off at Bikrampur and leads to Rai Bareilly through Patan and Bihar. The two are joined by a cross-road from Bihar to Baksar on the Ganges, which was constructed in 1864. For the remaining roads reference may be made to the map and the list given in the appendix. The old road from Paria to Rasulabad, Mohan and Lucknow was formerly of considerable importance and was a well-known highway in Nawabi times. It was embellished by spacious sarais, markets and handsome bridges and wells, built by the wealthy Lucknow officials to perpetuate their names and memories. The bridges and many of the wells remain, but the markets, deserted by the traffic which now passes along the railway and the main road to Cawnpore, lie in ruins. Close to the Lucknow border is Tikaitganj built by Maharaja Tikait Rai, the minister of Asaf-uddaula. Further west, the bridge over the ravine leading into Maharajganj and the market were built by Raja Bal Kishan, and the adjoining market by Newal Rai, the Naib of Safdar Jang. Similarly the bazar of Manganj was built by Miyan Almas Ali Khan the finance minister of Asaf-ud-daula and Saadat Ali Khan. All these

places have greatly decayed and are now of diminished importance.

A list of the ferries in the district will be found in the *Ferries* appendix. They are managed by the Cawnpore authorities, and the District Board of Unao receives no income from this source except from the small ferry over the Sai at Inayatpur in pargana Auras-Mohan. The chief means of transit across the Ganges is the railway bridge at Cawnpore ; but besides this there are public ferries at several places, the chief being those at Nanamau, Baksar, Pariarghat, Ruppur, Sarayan and Akbarpur Saing. All along the river the fishermen keep small boats in which they convey passengers across the Ganges ; and in many places during the hot weather the river becomes fordable, but few persons ever venture upon the passage.

CHAPTER III.

THE PEOPLE.

THE first regular census of the district was taken in 1869, ^c but as at that time the district had not yet assumed its present ⁱⁱ form we have to compile the totals from those of the old district and of the parganas that were subsequently added to it. We thus obtain a population of 945,955 persons, with an average density, estimated on the present area, of 544 persons to the square mile. This was the first census taken in Oudh, and consequently may be considered as only fairly accurate. The people viewed the undertaking with suspicion, but this did not lead to the concealment of females that was so marked in the northern districts.

The next enumeration was that of 1881, when the census ⁽ of Unao was taken simultaneously with that of the rest of ¹ India. It was then ascertained that the district contained a total population of 899,069 persons. This showed a very surprising decrease, which amounted to no less than 46,886 persons: a similar phenomenon was observed in the adjoining districts of Lucknow and Rai Bareilly. This decrease, so far as it was actual and not merely apparent,* may primarily be attributed to scarcity, bad harvests occurring in 1874, 1877, 1878 and 1880; these naturally had a retarding effect on the population, which was further enhanced by severe epidemics of cholera and small-pox, and the terrible outbreak of fever which visited the district in 1879. The density had shrunk to only 514·7 persons to the square mile—a figure which strikingly illustrates the state of depression then existing.

* It has been suggested that the rules for the 1881 census were faulty and that they often resulted in double on.

From 1881 onwards there has been a material improvement. During the following decade the district enjoyed great prosperity, with good harvests and sufficient rainfall. The population at the census of 1891 was recorded as 953,636, showing an increase of no less than 54,567 persons, while the density rose to 536·4 to the square mile. That this increase was due to the absence of natural calamities is evident from the fact that the population increased rapidly at the same time in every district in Oudh, the province being generally in a most flourishing state.

The last census was that taken on the 1st of March 1901. The population was then returned at 976,639 persons—the highest figure hitherto recorded. The increase since 1891 was well maintained, but not at the same rate as in the previous decade. The cholera epidemic of 1894 and the famine of 1897 exercised a retarding influence, but this was compensated by the fair conditions of other years. The density rose to 563·4 persons to the square mile—a figure which places Unao seventh in point of density among the districts of Oudh and third in the Lucknow division. The increase was not caused to any extent by immigration, for no less than 98·54 per cent. of the population were born in Unao or the adjoining districts, while on the other hand there had been considerable emigration, the percentage of emigrants to the population born in the district being no less than 10·72—a figure that was only exceeded in Lucknow and Hardoi of all the districts of Oudh.

Of the total population at the last census, 499,015 were males and 477,634 females; the disproportion between the sexes amounts to a defect of 4·3 per cent. on the part of females. This is no unusual feature, for the defect is very much greater in the adjoining districts of Hardoi and Lucknow, although in Rai Bareli, as throughout the east of Oudh, we find an actual excess of females. At one time, no doubt, female infanticide was very widely practised in this district, and of late years there has been a material increase in the number of females. In 1881 there were only 94·5 females to every 100 males; ten years later the proportion had risen to 94·8 per cent. and now it is nearly 96. The district occupies an intermediate position between the Duâb where males are proportionately much more

numerous, and the eastern districts, in which we find a considerable excess of females. In the Purwa tahsíl females are actually more numerous than males, the difference amounting to 5,670. In Unao males exceed females by nearly 5,000, while in Mohan and Safipur the difference is far greater, amounting to about 11,000. The disproportion is far more marked in the case of Hindus than of Musalmans, the difference amounting to 4·71 per cent. in the case of the former and 1·79 per cent. of the latter—a fact which would of itself afford a presumption of infanticide. We find, however, that the number of Hindu females under ten years of age is very nearly equal to that of the males; between ten and 20 the disproportion is marked, but it disappears again between 20 and 40, becoming most noticeable between the ages of 40 and 60. It would thus seem that the practice no longer exists, although possibly it has left its traces, as Darwin suggested, in some influence of heredity.

Classifying the whole population by religions, there were, at the last census 898,014 Hindus, 78,278 Musalmans, 190 Aryas, 136 Christians, 12 Sikhs, eight Jains and one Buddhist. The last three call for no further comment; the Sikhs are policemen, and the Jains traders, but they have made no settlement in the district. Hindus thus number 91·95 per cent., Musalmans 8·02, Christians ·01 and Aryas ·02 per cent. The number of Musalmans is lower than in any district of Oudh, although Unao is very closely approached in this respect by Rai Bareli. At the same time, we find in this district a remarkable instance of the phenomenon elsewhere observed, that the rate of increase is very much greater on the part of Musalmans than of Hindus. Since 1881 the proportion of the former has increased from 7·64 to 8·02 per cent., while the Hindus show a proportionate decrease, from 92·35 to 91·95 per cent. This is entirely due to natural development, for the Musalman religion has made no progress, and there has been no attempt whatever at propagandism in the district. Probably the reason elsewhere assigned holds good in this case also, that the Musalmans do not include among their numbers so large a proportion of the very poor as do the Hindus, while a more ample diet tends to greater fertility

Christianity has not made much progress in Unao. Of the 136 Christians enumerated in 1901, 25 were Europeans, five Eurasians and 106 natives. In 1881 the number of Native Christians was only 14, rising to 65 in 1891. Of the present number, ten belong to the Church of England and nine are Roman Catholics, the remainder being American Episcopal Methodists. There is no Anglican church in Unao, the station being visited four times a year from Cawnpore, and no work has been done in the district by any of the missionary societies under the auspices of the Church of England. In 1882 operations were commenced by a local preacher of the American Mission, but in the following three years only one convert was baptized. In 1885 one, and in 1886 six baptisms were made, and in the latter year a small school was opened at Purwa. In 1887 evangelistic work was begun at Safipur and Nawabganj, and there were 13 baptisms in all. Since that date a school has been continuously open at Unao, under the management of a resident pastor. There are now six boys' and one girls' school in the district, but in 1903 the total Native Christian community was estimated at 180 persons. The mission is visited four times a year by the Presiding Elder of Hardoi.

The Arya Samáj was first promulgated at Bigahpur in this district during the lifetime of the founder, Swami Dayanand Saraswati. It has, however, made little progress; in 1891 there were 123 Aryas, and at the last census the number had risen to 190. There are two lodges at Nawabganj and Unao, the latter having been started in 1896; but adherents of the Samáj are to be found scattered in villages all over the district, such as Bigahpur, Dubapur, Pandari, Rawatpur and Perha. The Samáj maintains a school at Rawatpur. Of the Aryas, 154 are Brahmans, the remainder being Rajputs, Banias and others. At the last census one was a Bahelia, the only Arya member of this caste in the whole of the United Provinces.

The Musalmans of Unao are for the most part the descendants of the invaders who at various times streamed into Oudh, an account of whom will be found in the historical portion of this volume. As the armies passed on strong garrisons were left to protect their rear and to keep open

communication with Dehli. The invaders fixed upon their headquarters, planted groves, built houses, and took wives from the women of the country, so that gradually the camp became a town. The chiefs acquired estates by various means, while their sons entered the service of the Subahdars of Oudh. The other Musalmans are descended from converted Hindus, who changed their creed, either to save their ancestral property from confiscation, or to acquire that of their neighbours; they are found scattered about the villages of the district, whereas the original Musalmans reside chiefly in the old *qasbas*. The latter, as might be expected from dwellers in towns, are as a rule brighter and more intelligent than Hindus; but at the same time they are more deceitful and intriguing. In many of their customs they have become Hinduised, and, leaving off the strict practice of their written laws, have adopted customs more suited to their state and the times in which they live. With regard to the others, Mr. Maconochie writes: "Among the avowedly new Muhammadans who turned from Hinduism but a few generations ago, such as the zamíndárs of Rainapur, Umramau, Secra of pargana Jhalotar, and of Rikam in pargana Purwa, Hindu customs are carried on to an even greater extent; daughters are rigorously excluded from all participation in their father's property, sons inherit according to the custom of the Hindu clan from which they sprang; and in some instances, as in the case of the zamíndárs of Makdudpur, the practice of the rite of circumcision alone distinguishes them from the surrounding heathen population; they seldom or never repeat prayers, they wear Hindu clothing and call themselves by Hindu names; in fact they are at heart Hindus, and as far as practicable keep up their old manners and traditions."* The Musalmans own about 14 per cent. of the district, their largest possessions being in Auras-Mohan, Safipur, Bangarmau, Unao and Asiwan-Rasulabad. The chief Musalman landholders are the taluqdars of Kakrali and Jalalpur in Hardoi, and of Miyan-ganj and Unao in this district. As usual, the great majority of all the Musalmans of the district call themselves Sunnis; at the last census there were however 7,205 Shias which gives a

proportion that is in excess of the provincial average, and the total number is only exceeded in the great Shia centres of Lucknow and Fyzabad.

Of the whole Muhammadan population at the last census, 17,329, or 22 per cent., were Sheikhs, chiefly of the Siddiqi subdivision, with a fair proportion of Qurreshis. Next come Patháns, with 13,571 representatives, or 13 per cent. These belong to many subdivisions, but notably the Ghorí, the members of this clan being more numerous than in any other district of Oudh: others are the Yusufzais, Warakzais, who again are unusually numerous, Kakars, Lodis and Bangash. Saiyids amounted to 3,529 persons, a small proportionate number; they are chiefly of the Rizwi, Husaini and Zaidi subdivisions. Mughals, too, are scarce; there were only 743, nearly half of whom are Chaghtais. The converted Rajputs numbered 3,446 persons, a singularly small figure for this part of Oudh; they belong to many clans, the Sengars, Dikhits and Bais predominating. The other Musalman castes call for no special mention. The Julahas and Behnas, who are primarily cotton-carders and weavers, but who also betake themselves freely to agriculture, are the most numerous, with a total of 12,800 souls. Next come Faqírs, with 7,758 persons, but besides these there are no others with five thousand representatives. Qassábs, Manihárs, and Darzis each number over 2,000 persons, and Kunjras and Gaddis come next, with over 1,000. The others are of many castes, but no one of them possesses any peculiar interest or importance.

First and foremost among the Hindus come the Brahmans, with 121,442 representatives, or 13·5 per cent. of the total Hindu population. The Brahmans are the second largest landholders in the district, holding 19 per cent. of the total area; they have considerable estates in every pargana, but notably in Harha, Purwa, Safipur and Mauranwan. They include among their numbers the taluqdars of Sissaindi, Bithar, Kardaha and Jagdispur, as well as several considerable landowners who are originally bankers by profession and reside chiefly in the Purwa tahsil. Almost all the Brahmans belong to the Kanyakubja or Kanaujia subdivision. Some of the best known families are those of

Muradabad, Ugu, Shakurabad and Hafizabad; they are noted for the high dowries they demand in marriage and for the harsh treatment extended to their sons' wives. Brahmans are found as cultivators everywhere, but especially in pargana Harha and the Purwa tahsil; they are husbandmen of an inferior stamp, but they generally hold at a favoured rate.

The Rajputs numbered 74,359 souls, or 8·2 per cent. of the Hindu population. Their numbers are only exceeded in Hardoi and Fyzabad of all the Oudh districts. As throughout the west of Oudh, so in Unao, do we find a remarkable disproportion between the sexes in the Rajputs, males numbering no less than 40,221. The Rajputs are by far the largest landowners of Unao, and hold 45 per cent. of the entire area. They own the greater part of the Purwa and Mohan tahsils, and are also predominant in every other pargana except Safipur. Their tenant holdings, on the other hand, are proportionately small, as all the Rajputs, and especially the Bais, affect to despise cultivation and generally work their fields with hired labour. They always hold at favoured rates, paying on an average only Rs. 5·13 per acre. The clans are numerous, no less than ten having over 2,000 representatives. The chief are the Bais, who belong to the south of the district: most of them claim to belong to the great family of Tilokchand, but there are several others. The history of the Bais, as of the other clans, will be found in the account of the taluqdars and in the historical chapter. The Bais number 10,540 persons, and then come the Chauhans with 9,693, and the Dikhits, with 8,315. The other important sects are the Janwars, Chandels, Gautams, Raikwars, Parihars, Sengars, and Gaurs. Besides these, the Gaharwars, Gaurs, Kachwahs, Rathors and Bisens have each over 1,000 members.

In addition to the true Rajputs, we find one or two clans who are said to have been raised to this dignity by the great Tilokchand of Baiswara. Such are the Mahrors, who hold a portion of Harha. Their own story goes that their ancestor, Sheoraj Singh, came to this part of the country in consequence of his relationship with Tilokchand, and that he settled in Boorajman and colonized the adjacent territory on the other

hand, the tradition current in the district is that when Tilokchand was defeated by the Patháns of Malihabad in Lucknow his followers fled and left him to his fate. The bearers of his litter, however, beat off his pursuers and carried him in safety from the field; for their bravery he made them Rajputs on the spot, changing their name from Mahra or Kahar to Mahrar. The change has been accepted and they now intermarry with the smaller clans.

So, too, the Rawats of pargana Harha are said to be descended from an illegitimate son of an Ahirin, Rawat being one of the Ahir subdivisions. They themselves, however, assert that they are pure Bais, and state that about 300 years ago the aboriginal Sunars rose and massacred the whole family during festivities at Bithar, except one woman who escaped and found protection with an Ahir. In return for this service she called her son, who was born shortly afterwards, Rawat Beni Singh. This man entered the service of the Emperor at Dehli, and later on received permission to recover his ancestral estate from the Sunars whom he entirely extirpated, and then re-established himself in the old home of the family. Elliot states that the Rawats are a recognised subdivision of the Bais.*

Continuing with the Vaishyas, we find that Baniás numbered 14,746, Khattris 396, and Kayasths 10,262. The Baniás are not of much importance in this district, and are for the most part small traders and money-lenders. Their landed possessions are comparatively small, amounting to 13,540 acres at the last settlement. Their chief estates are in Bangarmau, Harha and Auras-Mohan. The Baniás of Unao are almost all Dusars, with a few Umars and Agarwals. These Dusars rank low among Baniás, admit widow marriage, and are said to be a sub-caste of Umars. They are more numerous in Unao than elsewhere, but are largely found in the adjoining districts of Cawnpore, Hardoi, Lucknow and Rai Bareilly. The Khattris, though few in number, are of considerable importance; they mainly belong to the great Mauranwan family, and are the fourth largest landowners in the district, holding at the last settlement 87,822 acres. Next to them come the Kayasths with 36,368 acres chiefly in the

* W. Crooke Tribes and Castes of the North Western Provinces and Oudh, I., 125

Purwa and Mohan tahsils. The Kayasths are chiefly of the Sribastab subdivision, while the rest are Nigams and Asthanas. The Nigam or Unaiya branch is supposed to have its origin in this district, and are certainly very numerous here as compared with other parts of the province. There is said to have been some change in their condition of late years. They have abolished the old system of *kardao* in the marriages of their sons and daughters. They no longer serve meat in marriage feasts, and as a rule they abstain from drinking on such occasions.

Turning to the lower castes of Hindus, we come first to the Chamars, who numbered 103,052 persons, or 11·4 per cent. of the total Hindu population. This caste occurs in large numbers everywhere, but calls for little remark. They occupy almost the lowest position in the social scale and are employed chiefly as field labourers. As agriculturists they are not of a high order; they hold a fair proportion of the land as ordinary tenants, but more frequently perhaps they work for hire on the lands of the high caste tenants, such as Brahmans and Rajputs, who are too proud to handle the plough themselves.

Next come the Ahirs, numbering 92,743 persons, or 10·3 per cent. Although their hereditary calling is that of herdsmen, they chiefly betake themselves to agriculture, a profession which they follow with some success. As tenants they pay an average rate of Rs. 5·69 per acre, and are found throughout the district, but especially in the Mohan tahsil. They are generally said to be the descendants of the old proprietors of the soil, as in Lucknow and Hardoi. Originally they appear to have been a pastoral race, herding their cattle in the forests which then covered the country, and raising a scanty crop of grain in the clearings round their villages. In Rai Bareilly the Ahirs are said to be the modern representatives of the original Bhars, but whether this is so or not, they seem to have been dispossessed by the Rajput immigrants. They still have considerable landed possessions, amounting at the time of the last settlement to over 15,000 acres; three-fourths of this lie in the Mohan tahsil, and the rest in Safipur and the parganas of Harha, Ghatampur, Panhan and Purwa.

Very similar to the Ahirs are the Pasis, but the latter possess an inferior reputation, although under a settled government they have much improved and have given up to a large extent their old life of crime for agriculture. They numbered 89,170 persons, or 9·9 per cent. of the Hindus at the last census. They own very little land, but are chiefly tenants or field labourers; as cultivators they are of a very ordinary stamp and pay the same average rent as the Ahirs. To this caste belong the bulk of the village chaukidars, this being their hereditary vocation. During the Nawabi they formed a large proportion of the fighting retainers of the petty chiefs and were frequently notorious for their crime and turbulence.

The Lodhs numbered 89,640 persons, or ten per cent. of the Hindu population, a higher figure than in any other district of the United Provinces. They, too, are said to have been among the earliest inhabitants of the district. They are cultivators of a high order, hard working and industrious; they pay an average rent of Rs. 5·91 per acre, but the rate varies greatly in different parts, ranging from only Rs. 4·79 in tahsíl Safipur to Rs. 6·29 in Purwa. As tenants they hold about 11·5 per cent. of the cultivated area and are found in largest numbers in the parganas of Mauranwan, Harha, Jhalotar-Ajgaín and Unao. The other superior cultivators are the Kurmis and Kachhis or Muraos. The first numbered 19,176 persons in 1901, and though not so predominant as in some districts of Oudh are generally considered the best tenants. This is evident from the fact that they pay a higher average rent than any other caste; at the time of settlement it was Rs. 7·83 per acre for the whole district, although in Safipur it was only Rs. 6·52, whereas in the better soil of Purwa it averaged Rs. 8·63. The Kurmis are most numerous in the parganas of Bangarmau, Purwa and Mauranwan. They own about 13,000 acres of land, more than half of which is in Bangarmau, and the bulk of the remainder in Safipur, Ghatampur and Magrayar. The Kachhis and Muraos numbered 35,960 persons, a very fair average; they are market gardeners and chiefly confine themselves to the superior crops. They hold about six per cent. of the cultivation as tenants, their largest holdings being in Mauranwan Aurás Mohan and Bangarmau. As a

rule they hold the best land, and consequently pay very high rents. The average rate for Kachhis for the whole district is Rs. 7·4 per acre, but this would be much higher were it not that in Mauranwan they only pay Rs. 5·52, which is less than any other caste.*

The remaining Hindu castes are of no interest or importance and require no detailed mention, as none of them are peculiar to Unao, nor do they, except in a few cases, occur in any unusual numbers. The most numerous are the Gadariyas, Nais, Koris and Telis, all of whom have over 2,000 representatives and follow agriculture in addition to their proper professions. Next come Dhobis, the traditional owners of the Unao tahsíl, Barhais, Faqirs, Kumhars and Kahars, each caste numbering over 10,000 persons at the last census. The Tambolis come next, with 9,066 representatives; they are numerous throughout the Lucknow division, but nowhere do they occur in larger numbers than Unao. Their special calling is the cultivation of *pán*, and large quantities of this are exported to Lucknow, Cawnpore and elsewhere. Malis or gardeners numbered 6,629 persons, a higher figure than in any other part of Oudh. The only others deserving mention are the Thatheras or brass-founders, who only occur in larger numbers in Gonda; they carry on a thriving industry in Bhagwantnagar, Newalganj and elsewhere, but they have only 1,348 representatives. Lastly, we have the Kadheras, numbering 4,606 persons, a figure which is not exceeded in any other district. They seem to be a subcaste of Mallahs or boatmen, but though they are only found in the riverain tracts they seem to have given up their original vocation and to have betaken themselves entirely to agriculture; they are excellent cultivators and are seen at their best in the alluvial lands along the Ganges.

The people are almost wholly engaged in agriculture. As already noticed, the trade and manufactures of the district are very insignificant. Most of the towns are in a decayed state, for their prosperity was intimately connected with the native government, and their inhabitants were employed in the civil and military service of the Oudh kings, while the government

establishments brought traffic and wealth with them. After annexation the residents lost their service, and having for the most part no property to fall back upon sank into poverty and distress. At the last census the urban population was very small, amounting to only 6·9 per cent. Almost the whole of the rural population, as well as a large part of the urban, is dependent on agriculture for a means of subsistence. In 1901 the agricultural population was returned at 73·5 per cent., but even this does not represent the whole truth, as a large proportion of those engaged in other occupations belongs also to agriculture. For instance, out of the 14,818 barbers and 11,791 washermen returned, it is certain that a large proportion depend principally on agriculture for their livelihood. Again, many of the occupations classed under the supply and preparation of material substances are subsidiary to and dependent on the wants of an agricultural community. The industrial population is returned as amounting to 12 per cent., while the commercial and professional population amount together to only two per cent. The chief industry is the manufacture of cotton and subsidiary trades; the number of persons so engaged is entered as 15,713, but it is needless to say that a large proportion of these depend mainly on agriculture and the rest represent for the most part the ordinary village artisans; a few, however, find employment at the Cawnpore factories.

As a matter of fact, the people are almost entirely dependent on either agriculture or service. The number of persons employed in Government service is returned at 18,506, with dependents of both sexes. This is probably under-stated. The southern part of the district, where the great military Bais clan predominates, was formerly an important recruiting-ground for the native army; and though this source of employment has been greatly reduced by changes in the military organization, the number still employed is considerable; while 968 military pensioners draw their pay from the Unao treasury. Besides this, civil pensioners are fairly numerous. Large numbers are also employed in the Central Indian States, so that the return of 129 persons engaged in defence and of 95 in foreign service fails altogether to give an idea of the extent to which

the resources of the district are increased by these means. "The reason of this defect is to be found in the fact that the families of those engaged in service are generally landowners in a small way and have returned their occupation accordingly, though remittances from their relatives on service contribute largely to their maintenance. As an illustration of this it may be mentioned that the total amount of money-orders paid in the district during the year 1894 amounted to Rs. 8,67,980, while the issues were only Rs. 1,60,872, showing a net influx into the district of more than seven lakhs. Nearly the whole of this is distributed by the post-offices in the Purwa tahsil, where the Baisi clan predominates."* It is unnecessary to go into the statistics of occupation in greater detail; but the more closely the census figures are studied the more complete appears the dependence of the district on the two main sources of subsistence to which I have referred.

Consequently the condition of the people is the condition ^{Cond of th} of the agricultural classes. This does not differ from that of ^{peop} the adjoining districts; the holdings are small, and therefore wealth is not conspicuous. An important question in this connection is the security of tenure. The ordinary tenant is protected for a term of seven years, and ejectment has since 1886 been discouraged by the imposition of high court-fees. Mr. Moreland writes: "The average number of notices of ejectment issued in the years from 1868 to 1886 was about 13,500, but since that year the average has fallen to 440."† He shows that the passing of the Oudh Rent Act of 1886 has rendered the protection of the tenant considerably greater than in former days—a matter which is of great moment in this district, where small and impoverished proprietors form so large a proportion of the landholding community.

There is little to note about the customs of the people, as they ^{Cus} do not differ from those of the rest of Oudh. They are described at length in Mr. Maconochie's report‡ and it is only necessary to note a few points. All classes incur great expenses in their ^H

* Final Report, p. 3. | † *Ibid.*, p. 10.

‡ Settlement Report, pp. 23 to 29.

marriages, especially the Rajputs, whose inordinate pride induces them to spend far more than they can afford. Their great ambition is to ally themselves with the great clans of Etáwah, Mainpuri and beyond the Jumna; but as the latter consider the Oudh Rajputs as two-thirds illegitimate, they are made to pay for the honour of an alliance with the purer stock, so that the marriage of their daughters is a never-failing source of debt and difficulty. Among all classes concubinage is common, and especially among the Rajputs, so that very many of them are really illegitimate, and this has caused their bad name elsewhere. With regard to inheritance, custom has almost wholly over-ridden the practice of the old laws of the Benares school; and it presents the difficulty that it permits such diversity of practice, not only in regard to property of different kinds, but even families of the same tribe vary greatly in their rules. Thus, in the case of the Jhalotar Dikhits, the sons inherit equally in five of their estates, while in the sixth the eldest son gets an additional half share. The latter practice also prevails among some of the Bais and Kayasths. In the Bais estates of Bisara, Sandana and Indarna only four sons inherit at all, mere support being given to the rest. Again, in some tribes it is customary to divide according to the number of wives, the sons merely obtaining their share of their mother's portion; others divide directly among the sons, while the lower castes make no distinction between the legitimate and bastard children.

Among the Musalmans, too, custom has largely taken the place of the orthodox law. Where there is more than one wife, the whole property is usually divided according to the number of wives, without regard to the children. Illegitimate sons are merely entitled to maintenance, but the father can devise them a share, and frequently they obtain a portion when no such step has been taken. Where there are sons and daughters, all landed property goes to the sons, the daughters receiving nothing, and the widows only maintenance; but both the latter receive a share in houses, groves and moveable property. Where there are only daughters and a widow, the former can inherit by the will of the father: otherwise it goes to the widow or a nephew, but if there is ~~no widow~~ or no near male relative the

daughters inherit in preference to a distant collateral. Where there are no children, the widow inherits, but a male co-sharer in an undivided zamindari has a prior claim, the widow only receiving maintenance.

The dialect in common use is the Baiswari form of Eastern Hindi. At the last census, no less than 98·74 per cent. of the people spoke this tongue, while 1·25 per cent. spoke Urdu. The latter, however, except in the case of educated Hindus and town-bred Muhammadans, is of a far from polished kind. The Baiswari dialect is really only a modified form of Awadhi, the tongue which is spoken by the great mass of the peasantry in Oudh. There is no literature belonging to the district, and there are no educational, literary, political or charitable societies or institutions. The only religious society is the Arya Samāj, an account of which has already been given. No newspapers are or have at any time been published in the district. There is only one small printing-press, styled the Qaisar Press, in the town of Unao. It is owned by Saiyid Yaqub Ali, but no publications of any interest or importance are issued from it, the business being confined to job-work of an ordinary kind. L
gt

The district is chiefly owned by small proprietors and coparcenary bodies, and only 21 per cent. is held in taluqdari tenure, a very low average for Oudh. At the time of the last settlement, the villages of the district were divided into 2,784 mahals: of these, 37 per cent. were held in pattidari and bhaiya-chara tenure, which occur most frequently in the Mohan and Purwa tahsils. Nearly 25 per cent. is classed as joint zamindari, a form of tenure that is very common everywhere and particularly in the parganas of Auras-Mohan, Safipur and Bangarmau. About 17 per cent. is held in single zamindari, this being especially prevalent in Purwa, Harha, Unao, and the north of the district. Mr. Moreland in 1895 wrote: "There are 37 taluqdars and 28,455 zamindars other than taluqdars. Excluding from these the single proprietors, there remain 27,762 persons as owners of 651,571 acres, so that the average area of a holding is about 24 acres, out of which 13 are cultivated. These figures are somewhat under the mark, as many persons hold shares in more than one village, and it would be impossible to eliminate P
tc

these without a detailed examination and comparison of each separate *khewat*; while a further allowance must be made for the persons who hold small plots of land not represented as a fractional share of any mahal. These small holdings consist of on the average less than three acres, and are generally under groves. Deducting 5,510 holders of 14,567 acres on this account, the average share of a coparcener is under 28 acres, so that making the greatest possible allowance for persons holding shares in two or more mahals, the highest figure at which the average share can be put is 35 acres, out of which 19 are cultivated.*

"The natural inference from these figures is that the proprietary body as a whole is in poor circumstances. The general condition of the proprietary communities is one of struggling poverty, the almost inevitable result of the constant multiplication of owners and subdivision of land which take place under the existing law of inheritance. To this general statement there are, of course, many exceptions, as in most communities one or more sharers are to be found increasing their holdings at the expense of the less fortunate members, and there are a few villages where the whole proprietary body is well-to-do; but such instances only serve to throw into stronger relief the poverty of the rest; one great cause of this is doubtless the extravagance and recklessness of the holders, but the natural increase in their numbers is more important. This view is borne out by the result of a detailed examination of the circumstances of typical mahals, where I have found that in the great majority of instances transfers have taken place simply because the share was insufficient to feed those who lived on it, and after a struggle, more or less prolonged, the owner saw his rights pass to some wealthier person: in other words, when the income is insufficient for his support the proprietor must needs consume his capital. Such a process is naturally painful to contemplate in operation; but it is fair to consider that, given the existing law of inheritance and presuming a continual increase of population, the land must necessarily become more crowded and those whose hold is weakest must be crowded off. It should be remembered, too, that the small owner's loss is the

cultivator's and labourer's gain, for no substantial landowner, so far as my experience in this district goes, oppresses his tenants and labourers so ruthlessly as the small owner, himself struggling for bare subsistence. These remarks apply in the main to the coparcenary communities, but they are equally applicable to a considerable proportion of the single proprietors, many of whose mahals contain less than 20 acres all told. When things have become intolerable, it is natural for the small sharer to think that a partition may do him some good, while in his circumstances it can hardly harm him; and so a village gets split up into fifteen or twenty minute mahals, and each sharer finds himself sole proprietor of a mahal of which the area is insufficient for his maintenance. This process has been largely at work in the villages held by Kurmis, who are notoriously unable to manage an estate, and many of the properties shown as held by single proprietors are the result of such partitions."*

As a rule the tenure is exceedingly simple, each village community being separate from the other. The complicated tenures found in the eastern districts prevail nowhere except in the old pargana of Ajgain. This consisted of thirty villages owned by Dikhits, and after its subdivision into shares almost every member received a share in the neighbouring estates. The village lands are perfectly defined, and the shares also are regularly demarcated portions of each village, while the waste land, water and townships are held in common. The object of the founder of this scheme was to bind all his descendants together, and however much they might quarrel among themselves to give them all an interest in resisting external aggression. This they have done; but not only against outsiders but against each other: no farmer or single member of the brotherhood ever had a chance of usurping the rights of others, and to this day the villages remain intact in the possession of their ancestral owners.

Of the total area, 45 per cent. is the property of Rajputs, 19 per cent. is held by Brahmans and 14 per cent. by Musalmans. After them come Khattris, Kayasths and Faqirs, the large area held by Khattris representing for the most part the Mauranwan estate and that owned by Faqirs the taluqa

of Mahant Har Charan Das. No figures are available for comparison, but the general movement seems to be in the direction of transfers in favour of Brahmans, a caste to which the principal bankers of the district belong. The cultivating castes are steadily losing ground, while the Rajputs, on the other hand, are betaking themselves more and more to cultivation, although the great Rais clan have not actively joined in the movement. Next in order to the estates already mentioned come the Kalwars of Bangarmau, Ahirs, Banias and Kurmis. The Ahirs have their largest estates in the parganas of the Mohan tahsíl, excepting Gorinda-Parsandan. The Banias have made most headway in Bangarmau, Harha, Auras-Mohan and Fatehpur-Chaurasi. The possessions of the Kurmis are confined to a few parganas, notably Bangarmau, Magrayar, Ghatampur and Safipur. Zamindari tenure is not as a rule found among the Rajputs, most of whose villages, and especially those of the stronger clans, such as Dikhits, Chauhans, Parihars and Raikwars, are held in imperfect pattidari. The cultivated land is almost entirely divided according to some standard fixed by the original dividers, this standard being usually a bigha, which in some cases has a purely arbitrary value. Thus in one village, Kalha-Utura of pargana Harha, the shares are divided by reference to an assumed total area of 158 bhaiyachara bighas, as they are called, the actual cultivated and total area being very much greater. The zamindars have no tradition as to how or why this standard was fixed, but even to-day the shares are all fractions of this unit. In most of the villages the homestead, waste land and water are held in common by all, the shares consisting only of the cultivated area. Bhaiyachara villages are very few in number, only 28 being thus classified, and nearly all of these are in the Mohan tahsíl.

The taluqdars of this district are few in number and many of them are of small position and little influence. The list given in the appendix includes those who hold land in Unao, but who do not reside in the district. Such men need be but briefly referred to here, as accounts of their families and estates have been given in the volumes on those districts to which they properly belong. Of the taluqdars very few represent the old hereditary rulers of the district and those who come under

this class are mostly unimportant: they include the Dikhit Raja of Parenda, the Chaudhris of Sarosi, Unao and Bangarman, and a few of the Bais. The bulk of the taluqdars acquired their estates during the Nawabi, either by auction or lease; notably the Khattris of Mauranwan and the taluqdar of Maswasi. The remaining taluqas are chiefly creations of the British Government, such as Galgalha, Kantha and the various estates belonging to the descendants of loyal grantees of other districts. Of the whole taluqdari body, which comprises the owners of 37 estates, nine are Bais, eight Khattris and five Brahmans; while Kayasths, Saiyids and Sheikhs number two each, and the rest include one member of each of the following castes: Dikhits, Janwars, Parihars, Sengars, Chandels, Sombansis, Katiyars, Bathams and Nanakshahis.

We may begin, as is only proper in this district, with the B taluqdars of the Bais clan. Not all of these belong to the great^{ts} family of Tilokchandi Bais, whose home is in Daundia Khera, the early history of that clan will be found in the article on the Daundia Khera pargana. The famous Tilokchand had two sons, Raja Pirthi Chand, who took the western portion of his father's dominions and established himself in the fort of Sangrampur, the headquarters of the Tilokchandi branch; and Rana Harhardeo, from whom sprang the great Naihesta and Simbasi Bais houses, and whose headquarters were at Sultanpur.

The Raja of Morarmau is the sole remaining taluqdar of the premier line of descent. He does not reside in this district,¹ but holds a few villages in the Purwa tahsil. The estates of Pirthi Chand were divided between his grandsons, Bhikham Deo and Deo Rai. From the elder sprang the Rajas of Morarmau, who held their estates for six generations. Then came Raja Chandramani, who had two sons, Amar Singh and Gopal Singh. The latter seized the greater part of the property, which had already been much reduced on account of feuds with other members of the family, from his infant nephew, Debi Singh, the son of Amar Singh, and thus founded the Rajkumari branch of the family. In the meantime, the descendants of Deo Rai had formed the two estates of Daundia Khera and Purwa Banbirpur. The Rajas of Morarmau remained in comparative

obscurity till the later days of the Nawabi, when Raja Drigbijai Singh succeeded in recovering most of the villages usurped by the Rajkumars. The fortunes of his family were further retrieved by his conspicuous loyalty during the mutiny. He rescued the four survivors of the Cawnpore massacre, while they were being hunted down by the Nana's troops and mercilessly assailed by Rao Ram Bakhsh of Daundia Khera. His conduct throughout was consistently loyal, and he received in reward a large portion of the confiscated estates of Daundia Khera and the Shankarpur property of Rana Beni Madho. The present owner, Raja Sheopal Singh, has lost most of his property in Rai Bareh as it has passed to the Rana of Khajurgaon, but he retains his permanently-settled estates in this district. Prior to the time of Drigbijai Singh, the only member of the Tilokchandi branch of any importance in this district was the Rao of Daundia Khera. Mardan Singh, eighth in descent from Deo Rai, not only recovered the parganas which the Bais had long lost, but added Patan and Bihar to his ancestral estates, driving out the Simbasi lords. These new parganas at his death fell to Achal Singh, who established himself at Purwa. While he lived, his diplomacy enabled him to maintain his position, but after his death his sons, who inherited his pacific disposition but not his astuteness, gradually lost their estates. The last representative, Babu Debi Bakhsh, was either too indolent or too cowardly to take a decided part in the mutiny, but maintained a kind of passive rebellion which led to the loss of the small estate he might otherwise have saved; and had it not been for the accidental discovery of buried treasure in the old fort, his family would have been reduced to great poverty; at all events the greatness of his house has passed for ever away. Rao Ram Bakhsh of Daundia Khera, on the other hand, was a far more prominent person, and made himself notorious in 1857. He was subsequently captured and hanged at Baksar, and all his estates were confiscated.

Rana Harhar Deo, the second son of Tilokchand, took the northern portion of his father's dominions. He was succeeded by Ram Chandar who had two sons Khem Karan and Karan Rai. From the former comes the great family of Simban Bais, who

are now headed by the Rana of Khajurgaon in Rai Bareli. The Simbasis do not properly belong to this district, and only one of them, the taluqdar of Pahu, has any property in Unao. The present owner of this estate is Maharaj Kunwar, the widow of Thakur Rajendra Bahadur, who represents a younger branch of the Khajurgaon house, which left the main stock twelve generations ago. The property consists of five villages in pargana Mauranwan, known as the Gulariha estate.

From Karan Rai, the second son of Ram Chandra, are descended the Naihesta Bais, who established themselves in the Bihar pargana. Here they were attacked by the Raja of Morarmau, but they were protected by Rao of Daundia Khera. Karan Rai had two sons, one, Har Singh Rai, from whom are descended the taluqdars of Kori Sidhau, Udhrara, Hasnapur and Simri; and Bir Singh Rai, who was killed in the fight with the Morarmau Raja, and from him are descended the taluqdars of Patan-Bihar. Of the older branch, the taluqdar of Simri, Thakur Lal Raghuraj Singh, has property in this district, consisting of sixteen villages and one patti in the parganas of Mauranwan and Bihar, and known as the Patnadasi and Akampur estates. The history of his family, however, properly belongs to Rai Bareli, where the larger portion of his estates are situated.

The taluqa of Patan Bihar descended through eight generations to Khushal Singh, who had two sons, Mahesh Bakhsh and Arjun Singh. The former died in 1876, leaving his younger brother in possession. Arjun Singh died in 1892, and was succeeded by his widow, Sukhraj Kunwar. The estate is at present divided, the widow holding but three pattis known as the Behta estate, while the remainder is in the possession of Beni Madho Bakhsh, who owns ten villages and four pattis known as the Bajaura and Atmanand Khera estates in the parganas of Patan and Bihar. The property has greatly diminished in area of late years, for in 1875 Mahesh Bakhsh and Arjun Singh held together no less than 25 villages.

A younger branch of this same family is represented by the taluqdar of Gaura Raghuraj Singh, who owns six villages in Bihar. This estate was founded by Singh,

a cadet of the Patan Bihar house, and descended to Thakur Sitla Bakhsh, who received the *sanad* from Government. He was succeeded by his sons, Balbhaddar Singh and Darshan Singh. The former died in 1893, and his property passed into the hands of his son, the present owner, under the guardianship of Kailas Bakhsh, who also holds a share in the estate. Besides the Bihar property, he holds the Husainabad estate in Rai Bareli, consisting of four villages.

Raja Madho Singh of Bharawan in Hardoi also claims to belong to the Naihesta Bais, tracing his descent to Ram Chandra, the grandson of Tilokchand. The history of this estate belongs to the account of the Hardoi district. This taluqdar owns ten villages in the north of the district, chiefly in the Bangarmau pargana. Two Naihesta taluqas have disappeared since the first regular settlement. One was Malauna, held by Mahipal Singh, a descendant of Bhima Sah, the grandson of Karan Rai. He was the son of Dina Singh, who was granted a *sanad* and owned six villages. Mahipal Singh died in 1880, and was succeeded by his son, Mahesh Bakhsh, who has sold the entire estate. The other was Akbarpur, an offshoot from Patan Bihar. The last taluqdar was Beni Madho Bakhsh, who died in 1886, after having sold or mortgaged the whole of his property.

The two remaining Bais taluqdars do not belong to the Tilokchandi families. One of them, however, Thakur Baldeo Singh of Kanhmau in Sitapur, states that his ancestors migrated from Daundia Khera about five centuries ago, and so may belong to the same stock. He only holds one village in this district, Hariharpur in the Sikandarpur pargana.

The second, Thakur Sher Bahadur of Nandauli, is the son of Makrand Singh, who died in 1893 and was succeeded by his widow, Sheoraj Kunwar, and then by the present owner. The estate was founded by one Dudu Rai, a Bais of Mainpuri, who, according to the story, was passing through the Auras pargana at the head of a bridal party some seven hundred years ago. He was attacked by the Bhars and plundered. He subsequently returned with an armed force and drove out the Bhars. His descendants held the estate till 1846 when Raja Sabbha Singh, the uncle of d Singh, obtained the estate by foreclosure.

of a mortgage. Makrand Singh also purchased the Kaithulia estate in pargana Malihabad in Lucknow. The taluqa was formerly known as Rampur-Bichauli, but this village passed out of the hands of the family, the mortgage being redeemed at the last settlement. The estate consists of seven villages and two pattis in pargana Auras-Mohan.

The remaining Rajput taluqdars will be dealt with in Kan order of seniority; no clan has more than one representative, and several do not belong properly to this district. First comes Rani Satrupa Kunwar of Katuari in Hardoi, the widow of Raja Kalka Singh, who holds Fatehpur-Chaurasi and one other village in that pargana, bestowed on Raja Hardeo Bakhsh after the mutiny. The history of this family belongs to the Hardoi district.

Little, too, need be said of Raja Partab Bahadur Singh of Partabgarh, who owns seven villages of pargana Purwa. These were acquired by Raja Ajit Singh for services rendered during the mutiny. They are known as the Chamiani estate, and were confiscated from the Bais for rebellion; the revenue was assigned to Raja Ajit Singh for life.

Thakur Muneshar Bakhsh of Purseni in Lucknow holds the Akohri estate in pargana Mauranwan of this district. This property, which consists of three villages and one patti in pargana Mauranwan, was given to Jhabba Singh for mutiny services, it having been confiscated from the rebel, Hindpal Singh. The family belongs to the Janwar clan, and their history is given in the Lucknow volume. Jhabba Singh was succeeded by his son, Baldeo Bakhsh, who died in 1896. The present taluqdar, son of the latter, is a minor, and the estate is managed by the Court of Wards.

The Dikhit Raja of Parenda, Sheodat Singh, is a resident of this district and owns an estate of nine villages and three pattis in the parganas of Jhalotar-Ajgain and Mauranwan. The Raja is the head of the Dikhit clan, and the title is hereditary. He is the son of Raja Sheo Parshad Singh, who died in 1899. The Dikhits were among the earliest of the Rajput colonists of the district and the clan was once one of the most powerful in Unao. The boundaries of Dikhitana have been

greatly contracted, but they still hold a compact and extensive tract of country. Their former estates seem to have extended from the Ganges to Nimkhar in Sítapur and from Baiswara to the Janwar estates in Fatehpur. They claim descent from the Surajbansi Rajas of Ajodhya, and state that their ancestors migrated thence to Gujarat, where they were known as Durgbansis. The story goes that the name Dikhit was given to one Kalian Sah by Vikramaditya of Ujjain. They remained in Gujarat for several centuries, till Balbhaddar, Dikhit, entered the service of the Kanauj Rahtors. He received the pargana of Samoni in Banda, and there they remained till the fall of Kanauj, when Udebhan, one of the four sons of Jaswant Singh, grandson of Balbhaddar, migrated to Oudh and established himself as Raja in Dikhitana. The Dikhit Rajas occupied an enormous tract of country for six generations, and held a very high position, marrying their daughters to such chieftains as the Jangres of Dhaurahra, the Gautams of Argal, the Bandhalgotis of Amethi, the Bachgotis of Korar, and the Bisens of Manikpur. Runa Singh was the last Raja who held the ancestral domains undivided. He had six sons who partitioned Dikhitana amongst them. The eldest, Birnath, settled in Chamrauli; the second, Panna Mal, in Patheora; the third, Bir Sah, in Bhauli; the fourth, Sudan, occupied Sunana; while Gundaraj held Mushkabad, and Gurdatt settled in Gaura. From Panna Mal are descended the Rajas of Parenda. This chieftain rebelled against Muhammad Amin Khan, the Subahdar of Oudh, in the days of Akbar. The imperial forces besieged the fort of Patheora, and the Dikhits were utterly defeated, Panna Mal losing his life. After this disaster, the Chandel Raja of Sheorajpur made an attack at Dikhitana, but the Dikhits of Chamrauli united together and sent for Nirbahan, the younger son of Panna Mal, who had been sent with his mother to Dhaurahra. He was made Raja and led the whole clan to the banks of the Ganges, where they opposed the Chandel who was slain in the single combat. Nirbahan lived at Unao and did not rebuild the ruins of his father's fort. He never recovered the position held by Panna Mal, and Dikhitana was broken up by

t subdi

into small

As time went on,

great portion of their old property was gradually alienated, so that thirty years before annexation the Raja owned little beyond the village in which his fort was situated. Birsingh Deo, the grandson of Nirbahan, founded the village of Birsinghpur, and his son, Khirat Singh, removed thence and built the fort of Parenda. Hari Singh, the great-grandson of Khirat, rebelled against the Government, and his fort was taken and his land seized by Sherandaz Khan, the Faujdar of Baiswara, about the year 1700. This was the finishing blow to their ill-fortune, for Subans Rai, the son of Hari Singh, was too poor to be able to afford the ceremony of having the *tilak* affixed to his forehead on his father's death. The Rajas thus sunk in general esteem and lost all their influence among the Dikhits. The degradation of the family culminated to the person of Chandi Bakhsh, who died in 1852. This man was conspicuous only for his laziness and apathy, and in consequence of this the brotherhood deposed him and elected Daya Shankar, his cousin, in his place. The latter did much to restore the prestige of his house and made himself generally respected. He had several fights with the chakladars, but made many additions to his estate. During the mutiny he remained loyal to the Government, possibly because his cousin, Jit Bahadur, who laid claim to a part of the estate, had vigorously espoused the rebel cause. When Firoz Shah, Musa Ali and Jit Bahadur were in camp at Rasulabad, Daya Shankar gave great assistance to the civil officers at Bani and Nawabganj by keeping them constantly apprised of the movements of the rebels. He died in 1886, and was succeeded by his son, Sheo Parshad, the father of the present Raja. The title was recognised as hereditary in 1877.

Chaudhri Fateh Bahadur, the taluqdar of Sarosi, owns an estate consisting of six villages and four pattis in pargana Sikandarabad. He belongs to the Parihar clan, who have long established themselves in this pargana. Sikandarpur formerly was held by the Bisen Raja of Unao, but after the murder of Hanwant Singh by the Saiyids the estate passed into the hands of Harju Mal, a Dhobi. Shortly after, one Bhage Singh, a Parihar of Jigmal across the Ganges who had attacked a Dikhit of Parenda attacked the Dhobas and took of their

estates. After Bhage Singh's death the four sons divided the paigana between them. The law of primogeniture not existing then among the family, the estate became further divided and weakness rapidly followed. Eventually one Kalandar Singh took service in the Company's army and rose to the rank of Subadar-Major of the 49th Native Infantry. This man, who was seventh in descent from Asis, one of the sons of Bhage Singh, persuaded his branch of the family to mass their divided holdings into one large estate, to which his nephew, Gulab Singh, was elected taluqdar. The latter made it his object to become a taluqdar in deed as well as in name by buying out, where possible, the holders of proprietary rights. The estate is now held by his son, but is administered by the Court of Wards, as Chaudhri Fatch Bahadur has been declared unable to manage it.

The taluqdar of Kantha, Thakur Balbhaddar Singh, belongs to the Sengar clan. He owns an estate of eight villages and three pattis in the parganas of Asoha and Mauranwan. He is the son of Thakur Gajraj Singh, who died in 1898, and the grandson of Mahip Singh, who died in 1886. The history of this estate begins in the year 1527, when Sheikh Baiyazid, an Afghan general in Oudh, revolted against Babar. In his service were two Sengar Rajputs of Jagmohanpur, by name Jagat Sah and Gopal Singh. After the suppression of the rebellion the brothers settled down in pargana Asoha, making Kantha their headquarters. Four generations later the Lodhs, who were the original proprietors of the country, suddenly rebelled against the Sengars and killed the majority of the males, but allowed the women and children to escape, including three sons of Jaskaran Singh, named Askaran, Garbhu Singh and Asa Ram. These fled to Jagmohanpur, and thence returned with additional strength and regained their family possessions. Askaran settled in Kantha and is the ancestor of the present taluqdar. Five generations later came Ugarsen, who was murdered by Raja Achal Singh of Purwa. His son, Dhara Singh, was outlawed, and to keep him in check the tahsil and fort were removed from Asoha to Kantha. His grandson Tej Singh

is a great favourite with successive chakladars and was

allowed to engage for the whole pargana of Asoha at a revenue of about Rs. 45,000. His nephew, Ranjit Singh, held the pargana at annexation and behaved with the greatest loyalty during the mutiny, for which he was liberally rewarded with the confiscated estates of other members of the family. Ranjit Singh was succeeded by his son, Mahip Singh.

The only Chandel taluqdar in the district is Thakur Chan- Galgalbali Singh of Galgalha, who owns an estate of six villages and 32 pattis in the parganas of Harha, Unao, Safipur, Sikan-darpur, Pariar, Purwa and Panhan. He is the son of Thakur Sultan Singh, who died in 1899, and succeeded while a minor, the estate being for some time administered by the Court of Wards. There were formerly two Chandel estates in this district, one in Harha and the other in Bangarmau; both families claim descent from the Raja of Saeorajpur. The head of the Bangarmau Chandel was the taluqdar of Jajamau, but the whole of this property was sold some twenty years ago. The Harha Chandels are said to have received their estate by a grant from Alamgir, and it would appear that they had some difficulty in overcoming the original inhabitants, who once rose and massacred a large number of them, destroying their villages; and it was not until the Chandels returned with assistance that they effectually reduced their foes to submission. During the mutiny, Umrao Singh of Galgalha remained loyal, rendering important service to General Havelock, and was rewarded with the confiscated shares of the rebel members of the family; he thus became owner of the whole estate which was formerly known as Piparkhera. He was succeeded by his son, Sultan Singh.

Chaudhri Mahendra Singh of Gopalkhera, or Muham-Gop. madabad as the estate was formerly called, owns 19 villages and kher shares in three others in the pargana of Bangarmau. He belongs to a family of Bathams, apparently a subdivision of Kalwars.* Batham is not the name of any Rajput clan, but occurs frequently as the name of a subdivision in several castes, and is said to be derived from a connection with the ancient city of Sravasti. The family have long held an estate in Bangarmau, and were

invested with the office of Chaudhri many generations ago. Mr. Maconochie writes: "Several circumstances have combined to maintain the family in a flourishing condition; as a rule they were all true to one another, the head of the family being obeyed and supported by the junior members of the house to the utmost of their power; they generally had able men at the head of their affairs who, while keeping well with the local officials, made friends with all the Rajput zamindars of the pargana, by standing security, and otherwise assisting them in times of trouble and that these Rajputs would stand by their friends in turn was shown in 1851, when the hated chakladar Badrinath ventured for some fancied offence to imprison Bulaki Das, the favourite qanungo of the Dikhits, whereupon the clan rose to a man and carried him out of the Jhalotar fort, ironed as he was, in face of the chakladar and all his troops."* Thus the family continued to flourish till annexation, when they lost all the estates they hold in farm and retained only their ancestral property. The *sanad* was granted to Chaudhri Gopal Singh, who was an honorary magistrate of the first class. He died in 1878, and was succeeded by his son, Nannihal Singh, grandfather of the present taluqdar, who acceded in 1888.

The early history of the great Mauranwan family will be found in the article on that pargana. In order to explain the division of the estate since the death of Chandan Lal, the real founder of the house, some further account is required. Chandan Lal died in 1854 and was succeeded by his eldest son, Raja Gauri Shankar, who rendered conspicuous service during the mutiny. He held the whole estate and died in 1878; on his death disputes arose between his brothers and his sons, and the entire taluqa was partitioned. Raja Gauri Shankar had three sons, Lalas Ram Charan, Bisheshar Parshad and Har Parshad, the last-named dying without issue in 1889. Ram Charan has been succeeded by his son, Jamna Parshad, the head of the family, who holds the taluqa of Bahvi, consisting of five villages and 55 patts in the parganas of Mauranwan, Purwa, Harha, Unao and Bihar, as well as three villages in Rai Bareilly and half the Jabrauli estate in Lucknow. His uncle, Lala Bisheshar Parshad, owns

Kanchanpur, which comprises six villages, and 54 pattis in Mauranwan, Purwa, Harha, Unao and Daundia Khera, the remainder of Jabrauli in Lucknow, and the small Thulendi estate in Rai Bareli.

The second son of Chandan Lal was Raja Bihari Lal, whose son, Madho Parshad, has been succeeded by his son, Lala Kedar Nath. He holds the Dareta estate in this district, which consists of 21 villages and three pattis in Mauranwan, Panhan, Magrayar, Harha and Bihar, as well as Amanwan in Rai Bareli.

Raja Kanhaiya Lal, the third son of Chandan Lal, was succeeded by his son, Sheo Darshan, and then by his grandson, Lala Shambhu Dayal. This estate, known as Deomai, comprises eleven villages and three pattis in the parganas of Mauranwan, Purwa and Unao. Lala Shambhu Dayal also owns the Khandwan estate of five villages in Rai Bareli.

The fourth son of Chandan Lal was Lala Chhote Lal, who had three sons, Balmakund, Balgobind and Beni Parshad. The first died in 1889, and was succeeded by Lala Salig Ram, who held the Kather and Bachhrawan properties, consisting of three villages and three pattis in Mauranwan, Purwa and Magrayar, and two villages in Rai Bareli, till his death in October, 1901. Lala Balgobind had several sons; the eldest, Mohan Lal, died in 1882, and now Kashi Parshad and five others hold Asrenda, a small estate of two villages and one patti in Mauranwan, and one village in Rai Bareli. The descendants of Beni Parshad hold Atwat which consists of two villages in Magrayar and one patti in Mauranwan; and other members of the family own Barwa Kalan, which includes two villages and two pattis in Mauranwan and Purwa, and four villages of Rai Bareli. The Bantbar estate, formerly held by Ganga Parshad, a brother of Chandan Lal, was divided in 1898 between Ram Charan and Bisheshar Parshad.

Of the five Brahman taluqdars holding land in this district the chief is the Raja of Sissaindi in Lucknow. He holds the estate known as Dadalha in Mauranwan and Gorinda-Parsandan, which was confiscated from its former Rajput owners for rebellion and bestowed on Raja Kashi Parshad for loyal services rendered to the British. It consists of 22 villages and four pattis and is at present administered by the Court of Wards

The Raja, Chandra Shekhar, is a Tewari, and the history of his family will be found in the Lucknow volume.

The taluqdar of Kardaha, Shankar Bakhsh, is the son of Daya Shankar, a Bajpei Brahman, who died in 1900. The property consists of six villages and three pattis in the parganas of Mauranwan, Panban and Harha. The estate was acquired by purchase by the predecessors of Daya Shankar; one of them held the offices of chakladar and nâzim under the Oudh government, and thus was enabled to buy up several villages. Daya Shankar's possessions were increased by the death of a co-sharer who left no issue.

Sheoraj Bali of Jagdispur owns a small property consisting of two villages and one patti in pargana Magrayar. He is a nephew of the late taluqdar, Sheo Gobind, Tewari, who died in 1884. The estate was bestowed in gift on one Brahma Din by Ishri Din, son of Chandhri Gharib Singh, and thence it descended to Hira Lal, the father of Sheo Gobind. The property was formerly known as Bo'ita Bhawani, and has been much reduced in size, for in 1880 it consisted of seven villages.

Rani Jagat, Rani of Bithar, is the widow of Raja Sheonath Singh, who died in 1889. The Raja was a Kashmiri Brahman who was rewarded for loyal services with a portion of the confiscated property of the rebel, Chandika Bakhsh, who was transported for life. The estate consists of three villages and two pattis in pargana Harha.

The remaining Brahman taluqdar is Musammat Rukmin Kuar of Tirbediganj in Bara Banki. She owns the single village of Shakurabad in the Safipur pargana. She is the widow of Thakur Singh, Tirbedi Brahman, who was a distinguished officer under the Nawabs of Oudh. An account of the family will be found in the Bara Banki volume. This village of Shakurabad was bestowed on Thakur Singh for services rendered during the mutiny.

Mahant Har Charan Das, of Maswasi in pargana Harha, is one of the largest landholders in the district, owning 23 villages and three pattis in Harha, Purwa, Pariar, Sikandarpur, Asoha and Safipur. In addition to his Unao property he owns
 ve in h, Gonda and Kheri and a few

villages in Lucknow and Hardoi. The taluqa was founded by Mahant Gur Narain, a Nanakshahi Faqir, who bequeathed it to the present owner. During the minority of Mahant Har Charan Das the estates were managed by the Court of Wards, while the owner received an English education at the Canning College at Lucknow. Mahant Gur Narain Das chiefly acquired his estates by the zamindars putting their villages under his protection to escape the oppression of the chakladars; at the same time they relinquished all their rights except those to *sir* and *nankar*, which were secured to them at the settlement.

The two remaining Hindu taluqdars belong to the Kayasth^s caste, but neither of them resides in this district or holds large properties. One of them is Lala Durga Parshad of Sarawan in Hardoi, who owns the two villages of Talhi and Loharu in pargana Auras-Mohan; and the other is Rai Sri Ram Bahadur of Rasul-pur in Fyzabad, who holds the single village of Tera in pargana Mauranwan, which he has recently acquired by purchase.

Of the Musalman taluqdars the largest landowner is Saiyid³ Iltifat Rasul of Jalalpur in Hardoi, who owns 12 villages and eight pattis in the pargana of Auras-Mohan. The history of the family will be found in the Hardoi volume. His Unao property, which is known as Rampur-Garhawan, was purchased by Maulvi Fazal Rasul, the predecessor of the present taluqdar.

Chaudhri Muhammad Mah is the present representative¹ of the Saiyids of Unao, together with his brother, Saiyid Talib Ali. He holds three villages and four pattis in pargana Unao and one patti in Safipur. He is the son of Chaudhri Ramzan Ali who died in 1892, and the grandson of Chaudhri Dost Ali, who died in 1877 and received the *sanad* from the British Government. The family is a very old one. About the year 1450, Saiyid Baha-ud-din attacked and slew Unwant Singh, the Bisen Raja and founder of Unao in revenge for the death of his father, which occurred by the hands of Unwant Singh in a battle near Kanauj. The Saiyids then acquired nearly the whole of pargana Unao and were enabled to consolidate their power by making terms with the Bais Raja Tilokchand. Unao and other villages were conferred upon them by the Emperor of Delhi who at the same time bestowed on them the office of

Chaudhri. They improved their estates by founding fresh villages and purchasing others, and maintained their hold over the land originally acquired by the influence of their official position. The Sayids, however, for a long time were troubled by the Bisens, and even after the annexation one Ram Bakhsh, the Bisen zamindar of Tikagarhi, obtained such a heavy lien on the lands in Unao, through the bad management of Chaudhri Dost Ali, that had it not been for the assistance of the Khattri bankers of Maurawan the Bisens would probably have recovered the seat of their ancient possessions.

The only other resident Musalman taluqdar is Maulvi Wasi-uz-Zaman of Miyanganj, who owns seven villages and eleven pattis in the parganas of Asiwan, Rasulabad, Safipur, Unao and Fatchpur-Chaurasi. The estate was founded by Maulvi Habib-ur-Rahman, Sheikh, who was granted Miyanganj for loyal services rendered during the mutiny. The Maulvi died in 1878 after having largely improved his property. He was succeeded by his son, the present taluqdar. The estate is now under the management of the Court of Wards.

1. Lastly, there is Chaudhri Muhammad Jan of Kakrali in Hardoi. He belongs to a Sheikh family, the history of which is given in the volume on that district. He holds 27 villages and three pattis in the parganas of Bangarman and Auras-Mohan, the estate being known as Asaish-Qasimpur. It was bestowed on his grandfather, Chaudhri Hashmat Ali Khan, for the valuable services rendered by him during the mutiny and in re-establishing order and pacifying the north. The old taluqa of Unchgaon, which was formerly held by a Musalman family of Saiyids, has disappeared. The last taluqdar was Saiyid Muhammad Ali, whose name was struck off the list in 1893, as the entire estate had been sold. The family have been well known in the pargana of Mohan for about 15 generations. Saiyid Muhammad Tahsin, the grandfather of Muhammad Ali, bought Unchgaon and another village, and his son, Hakim Wajid Ali, who was nazim of Khairabad, acquired three more, all of which have now passed out of the hands of the family.

The subordinate tenures are comparatively unimportant. At the time of the last settlement only 31 mahals and 16 share

in mahals were subsettled. In the Purwa tahsil there are 13 such mahals and five fractional parts; in Mohan 11 mahals and nine smaller shares; in Unao four mahals and three shares, and in Safipur only three mahals. The remarks already made with regard to the proprietors generally apply in this case too, but with even greater force, on account of the heavier payments to be made to the superior proprietors. The small number of sub-settlements in this district is due to the manner in which the villages were acquired by the taluqdars, for Unao is singularly free from those mushroom taluqas that form so prominent a feature of other Oudh districts. The auction taluqdars chiefly acquired their estates by sale or mortgage, and consequently obtained the whole zamíndári right by transfer, so that sub-leases only occurred in the few villages they obtained by other means. In the case of the taluqas created by the British Government, no sub-lease was possible, as the villages were confiscated from the ancestral zamíndárs who deliberately espoused the rebel cause, obstinately rejecting all offers, and consequently were not entitled to any sort of right. Thus sub-settlements could only occur in such estates as Sarosi, where one man was elected chief of a clan and made the medium of payment of the revenue: the old proprietors would thus become sub-lessees, paying merely the Government demand with a small percentage to the overlord.

The amount of land held by under-proprietors at the last settlement was 2·4 per cent. of the cultivated area, as against 2·51 per cent. thus held at the first regular settlement. The explanation of this decline is that the tenure was a creation of the former settlement and cannot now be extended, while the area held under it tends to decrease as the superior proprietors buy up the subordinate rights. These rights were divided into three heads at the settlement, and comprised *sir* and *nankar* in taluqas, *sir* and *nankar* in independent villages, and groves. There were no claims to *shankalp*, which is so common elsewhere, and only one to a *birt*, and this was dismissed. In the taluqdari villages something was almost always given to the old zamíndárs, and as a rule all those members of the ex-proprietary body who remained cultivating in the village received a share in

whatever rights were decreed. Over ten per cent. of the total taluq-dari holdings was decreed in under-proprietary right. The status of holders of *sir* in the independent villages is very similar. Members of the brotherhood who could not exactly prove a legal title to a share, received, usually by consent, a small fixed amount of *sir* land, for which a low fixed rent was demanded, the right to such land being both heritable and transferable. The tenure in groves has been already dealt with in Chapter I.

Another form of tenure, known as *chakdari*, has been included in under-proprietary tenure since the first regular settlement. This is of two kinds. In many of the larger co-parcenary villages a considerable number of persons will be found holding small parcels of land known as *chaks* acquired by sale or mortgage from the landowners. It usually arose when a zamindar borrowed money and advanced in security a few fields to the lender, making over the profit on these fields as interest. The land was either entirely rent-free, as regards the Government demand, or a fixed sum was agreed upon; and thus the holding continued and the mortgage remained unredeemed till it eventually became a sale and the mortgagee was recorded as the owner of the land. When the time came to divide the revenue among the separate holders of the village, it was held that the demand should be paid by the actual proprietors, and no opposition was ever made to the assessment of these *chaks*. The second kind are those that are found in the neighbourhood of the older Musalman towns. These arose from a different cause; it would appear that originally the whole of the land surrounding the town was given in *jagir* to the settlers, who either planted groves and orchards or cultivated the land. Thus there was no superior proprietary community, but every man was the owner of the plot of land assigned to him; gradually, as the small holdings lapsed or confiscated, a government holding was created, which was either leased to some of the leading men in the town, or held under direct management by the government officials. In the time of Saadat Ali Khan, when all the *jagirs* were confiscated, the owners of the cultivated plots preferred giving them up to paying rents for them. They continued however to hold their orchard lands which were

never assessed. As time went on many of these orchards were cleared of trees and cultivated; but no notice was taken of this land, and the descendants of the original holders continued in possession. After annexation, such possession was generally confirmed and the holders were made *chakdars*, the share of the Government demand being apportioned according to the value of each holding and paid through the *lambardars*.

Turning from the proprietors to the actual cultivators, we find that at the time of the last settlement 15 per cent. of the assessed area was cultivated by the proprietors themselves, under the form of *sir* and *khudkásht*. The proportion was highest in the Mohan and the Safipur tahsils, where it amounted to 18·86 and 18·14 per cent., respectively; and lowest in Purwa, where it averaged only 11·04 per cent. Of the remainder, 2·4 per cent. was held by under-proprietors, ·83 per cent. by occupancy tenants, and 9·64 per cent. was classed as either rent-free, grain-rented, or held at nominal rates. This leaves a balance of 72 per cent. held by ordinary tenants paying cash rates. The figure is almost constant throughout the district, being highest in pargana Unao, where 81·98 per cent. is thus held, and lowest in Bhagwantnagar, where it only amounts to 60·44 per cent. The average holding of ordinary tenants is 2·08 acres, but this is below the actual figure, as many tenants hold in two or more villages and many more in two or more pattis of the same mahal, and these cannot be allowed for in the statistics. "The distribution has in fact varied remarkably little in the last thirty years, remembering that at last settlement tenants at favoured rates were included in ordinary tenants, while in the present statistics they are classed with holders of land free of rent. The extension of grain-rented lands is mainly due to the cultivation of very inferior rice land which is most conveniently held under this system. There were a few instances of good land being put under this heading for settlement purposes, but the area affected was unimportant. The proportion of land held by proprietors has naturally increased with the extension of the proprietary body; while that held by under-proprietors has declined. There is a small increase in the proportion held by tenants with a right of

occupancy, but the total area under this head is only 4,856 acres. The area held free of rent also shows a small increase, which is hardly capable of explanation; the favoured tenures appear now for the first time. They consist for the most part of land held by relatives of the proprietors, the record being frequently a dishonest subterfuge on the part of the lambardar, who by putting his relatives in possession of good land at nominal rates, hopes to enjoy the full produce without giving the other sharers their due proportion of profits.”*

Rents appear to have risen since the last settlement, but no statistics are available to show the extent of the increase. The statistics given in the report show that the average rent-rate of the whole district was Rs. 5-8 per acre for all classes of tenants. It was highest in the Purwa tahsil with Rs. 6-29, the Baiswara parganas showing in some cases over seven rupees. In Safipur, on the other hand, the rate was only Rs. 4-96; this low figure being ascribed to the large proportion of tarai land in this tahsil. Mr. Moreland discovered some very curious facts in connection with rents. He writes: “The rate paid by good cultivators is Rs. 6-63, while the high caste rate is Rs. 5-39, and that of all except the high caste tenants is Rs. 5-95. The higher castes thus pay 90·5 per cent. of the full rental as compared with all other tenants; but the amount of the difference is by no means uniform, the rate varying from 75·3 per cent. in Fatehpur-Chaurasi to 98·3 per cent. in Bangarmau, while in Mauranwan the high caste rate is 2·5 per cent. above the full rental of ordinary tenants. The variation does not follow any geographical order, nor does it follow any law that I can discover.”† The highest rates are naturally those paid by Kachhis; but here, as everywhere, we find remarkable local variations. While the general average rents for this caste for the whole district was Rs. 7·4 per acre, it rose to Rs. 13·57 in pargana Bhagwantnagar, and Rs. 12·43 in Panhan, although the average for the Purwa tahsil was only Rs. 6·6. The Kachhis have very large holdings in pargana Mauranwan, larger in fact, than any other caste; but here they only pay on an average Rs. 5·52, a lower figure than that paid by them in any

pargana of the district. On the other hand, Kurmis pay on an average Rs. 7.38 per acre; in Purwa, however, the average is Rs. 8.63, while in other tahsils it is under seven rupees. The reason for these remarkable variations is not easy to discover; many of the figures do not represent a true rent, as for example the rents fixed for cultivating proprietors, while that of under-proprietors was fixed 35 years ago. For assessment purposes the Settlement Officer confined his attention to the rents of tenants holding full rates, and thus he arrived at a corrected average rent-rate of Rs. 5.76 per acre. The difference in rent-rates between coparcenary and taluqdari bodies is striking. On the average of the whole district, tenants in coparcenary estates, at the time of the last settlement, paid at the rate of Rs. 6.25 per acre, while in taluqdari estates the corresponding figure was Rs. 5.65. "Looking at the figure of each pargana it appears that taluqdari rate is highest in six parganas out of 21. Four of these are in the Purwa tahsil; of these the area in Ghatampur is too small to give a rent-rate comparable to the other parganas, while in Panhan, Magrayar and Purwa the difference is due to strict management. The same explanation may be given in the case of Fatehpur-Chaurasi, while in Auras-Mohan two out of the three taluqdari estates are altogether over-rented. The greatest difference is found in Daundia Khera, and is due partly to the taluqdari estates being mostly situated in the tarái and partly to the easy management of the Mauranwan taluqdar. On the whole the figure bore out the conclusion already arrived at, that the cultivating body is much better off on large estate with a single proprietor."*

In tracing the history of rents we may begin by quoting from Mr. Maconochie:† "As a rule, rents have for many years been paid in money, and not in kind. But nowhere is there a trace of any fixed rate on the soil, classified either according to quality, or to position of the land in the village. The rule has always been for each field to pay the price commensurate with its known productive capabilities, and the demand for land in the village; but as far as I have been able to ascertain, except in

very rare instances, competition has not come in to regulate the price. During the cotton mania, I discovered competition in one pargana, Bangarmau, and rents rose considerably for land adapted to that class of produce, but on the termination of the American war, and the consequent fall in prices, the speculators were ruined, and the landlords lost considerably by them; the year following, they were glad to restore the land to the old cultivators, at considerably reduced rents. There is no doubt that rents, as a rule, are lower now than in the Nawabi, or perhaps I should say more equal. In the estate of a powerful landowner like the taluqdar of Mauranwan they are much lower. He was able to protect his tenantry against outside oppression; consequently his land was at a premium, and he received higher rents than the petty landowner, who could do nothing to protect his dependents, and whose land was consequently at a discount. In one village belonging to this taluqdar rents on annexation went down a third. It had been a harbour in former days for those who had to leave their own homes, to escape from the bullying they experienced in the independent villages, and therefore the cultivators were willing to pay almost any rent for the land. But annexation, bringing peace and security, brought the value of land to a level and equalized rents." At the first regular settlement the cash tenants' rental gave a rate of Rs. 4 31 per acre, so that the increase during the following thirty years was 37·6 per cent. In the Unao tahsil it was only 14·46, this being mainly due to the fact that this part of the district was in 1865 more fully developed than the other tahsils. This rise in rents was the chief source of the enhancement of revenue. The large extension of the double-cropped area has undoubtedly given a largely increased produce, of which the landlord receives his share, but it is impossible to say how much of the rise in rents is due to this cause. The history of prices has already been given, and from that would appear that there has been a marked rise in prices since 1886. In that year it was ascertained that the average rent-rate for cash-paying tenants had already risen to Rs. 5·47 per acre; that is to say, that of the total rise in rents of 33·6 per cent. recorded in 1895, no less than 26·9 per cent. had been established before 1886. Moreover, from an investigation

then made, it was found that in many cases the actual rent-rolls were and had been for many years in excess of that recorded, while there were very few instances where the recorded rent-rolls, were found to be in excess of the actual. It would, therefore, appear that the rise in rents owing to increased prices was more or less unimportant: the figures indeed suggest that before the year 1886 the landlord's share of the produce was increasing at the expense of the tenant, rents having risen faster than prices, but since that year the tenant has improved his position and retained most of the benefits of the increased rates now prevailing.*

* Final Report, p. 22.

CHAPTER IV.

REVENUE AND ADMINISTRATION.

THE district is in the charge of a Deputy Commissioner, ^{Magisterial staff,} who is subject to the control of the Commissioner of the Lucknow division. He is ordinarily assisted by three full-powered deputy collectors, and one with second-class powers, this being the sanctioned staff of the district, which is rarely exceeded. In addition to these there are four tahsildárs, stationed at Unao, Safipur, Purwa and Hasanganj, the last-named place being the present headquarters of the old Mohan tahsil. Each of these exercises third-class magisterial powers and revenue and rent powers of the second-class, within the limits of their respective tahsils. There are only two honorary magistrates at the present time: one of these is Maulvi Muhammad Hasan, who is invested with second-class powers within the limits of the Hasanganj police circle; and the other Chaudhri Mahendra Singh of Gopalkhera, who has the powers of a third-class magistrate within the limits of his estate in the Bangarmau police circle. There is no bench of honorary magistrates for the Unao municipality.

For the purposes of civil jurisdiction the district forms ^{Civil Courts.} part of the Hardoi judgeship, and sessions are held at regular intervals at Unao. For ordinary suits there is a sub-judge stationed at Unao, and subordinate to him are the three munsifs of Unao, Purwa and Safipur. The Unao munsifi comprises the parganas of Unao, Sikandarpur, Harha, Auras-Mohan and Jhalotar-Ajgain; that of Safipur includes Safipur, Bangarmau, Fatehpur-Chaurasi, Asiwan-Rasulabad and Pariar; while the Purwa munsifi consists of the Purwa tahsil and the remaining pargana of Gorinda-Parsandan. There are no honorary munsifs in the district.

For administrative purposes the district, as at present constituted, is divided into four tahsils. The northern subdivision of Safipur comprises the three parganas of Safipur, Bangarman and Fatehpur-Chaurasi. The eastern tahsil of Mohan or Hasanganj, as it is commonly called from the name of its headquarters, is made up of four parganas, Auras-Mohan, Gorinda-Parsandan, Jhalotar-Ajgain and Asiwan-Rasulabad. The western and central tahsil of Unao also contains four parganas, known as Unao, Pariar, Sikandarpur and Harha. The southern tahsil of Purwa consists of no less than ten small parganas, Purwa, Mauranwan, Asoha, Bhagwantnagar, Daundia Khera, Panhan, Bihar, Patan, Magrayar and Ghatampur. Each of these tahsils and parganas has been separately described in the second part of this volume. The unusual number and the average small size of these parganas render them practically useless as administrative or fiscal units, and although the classification was observed by the Settlement Officer, their individual interest is chiefly historical. Formerly, too, things were even worse in this respect, for the number of double names shows that at one time there were at least four more parganas in the area which now forms the district of Unao.

The district is a creation of the British Government. From the first it belonged to the Lucknow division, but it has undergone several important changes in area. Prior to 1869 there were only thirteen parganas in Unao, but in that year Auras-Mohan was taken from Lucknow and added to the old tahsil of Nawabganj, whence the headquarters were removed to Mohan and subsequently, in 1891, to Hasanganj. In 1869, too, the seven parganas known as the Baiswara, so called from its having been the home of the great clan of Tilokchandi Bais, consisting of Panhan, Patan, Bihar, Bhagwantnagar, Magrayar, Ghatampur and Daundia Khera, were transferred from Rai Bareli and included in the Purwa tahsil. The headquarters of the district were originally at Purwa, which was the seat of the native government, but were removed to Unao very shortly after annexation, chiefly on account of its more accessible and central situation.

For the maintenance of land records the district is divided into sixteen *qauimgo* s circles, of which tahsil Unao contains three,

Purwa five, and the others four each. In Unao, one circle comprises pargana Unao and northern and western Harha; the remainder of Harha constitutes a second, and parganas Pariar and Sikandarpur a third. In Purwa, the pargana of that name forms one circle; Daundia Khera and Ghatampur a second; Bhagwantnagar, Patan, Bihar and Magrayar a third; the fourth consists of Asoha and half Mauranwan, and the fifth of the remainder of the latter and pargana Panhan. In the Mohan tahsil there is one qanungo for each of the two old parganas of Auras and Mohan; a third for Asiwan-Rasulabad, while the fourth comprises the two parganas of Jhalotar-Ajgain and Gorinda-Parsandan. In Safipur, the pargana of that name and Fatehpur-Chaurasi each form one circle, and Bangarmau is divided into two others.

The fiscal history of the district dates only from annexation, and even from that date to the first regular settlement we have no accurate records owing to the changes in the form of the district. The summary settlement was made in 1856 by Major Evans, the Deputy Commissioner, and his Assistant, Mr. Jenkins. This assessment was maintained at the second summary settlement of 1858, after the restoration of order. The settlement made by these officers was based on the old records of the Oudh Government, but nearly the whole of these were lost during the mutiny.

The only returns now available are those of the second summary settlement of 1858. The demand for the Unao district, as it then existed, was Rs. 10,38,611, but if we include Auras-Mohan, with a revenue of Rs. 1,19,977, and the seven Rai Bareli parganas, assessed at Rs. 1,49,827, we obtain a total for the present district of Rs. 13,08,415. This included cesses, as well as the nominal demand for jagirs and revenue-free or assigned lands. The net sum payable to Government was Rs. 11,76,185.* This assessment was believed to be very heavy, but the general idea of the high demand for Unao was in Mr. Maconochie's opinion attributable to the light revenues imposed on the adjacent districts. He writes: "When friends and neighbours on the border got together, they compared notes, and as it was found the rule for the Unao *jamas* to be higher than others, it became an accepted fact

that Unao was heavily assessed. Experience has shown that, though unequally distributed, the summary settlement demand was equitable."*

The district was the first in Oudh to come under regular settlement. The work was commenced in October 1860 by Mr. R. C. Clifford, C.S., who effected the field survey and the greater part of the assessment of the land revenue. On the 1st of December, 1863, Mr. Clifford was, on his departure to Europe, succeeded by his assistant, Mr. G. B. Maconochie, who completed the assessment, the judicial inquiry into rights and the preparation of the settlement records. The report was submitted in June, 1867. As yet, the district was still in its original form. The pargana of Auras-Mohan, which remained in the Lucknow district till 1869, was assessed in 1867 by Mr. Maconochie, and the Rai Bareilly parganas of the Baiswara were settled between 1863 and 1865 by Major MacAndrew and Mr. G. Lang, C.S.

The settlement operations were preceded by the survey. Early in 1860 the demarcation of village boundaries was commenced by Mr. E. O. Bradford and completed at the end of the following year. Mud pillars were erected at every turn of the boundary, and masonry platforms built at each trijunction; but wherever a serious dispute had occurred, the mud pillars were replaced by permanent structures of masonry. The professional survey was conducted by Lieutenant-Colonel D. C. Vanrenen during the same years, the operations comprising topographical, boundary and interior survey, the latter showing the cultivated apart from the uncultivated land. After the survey, the settlement records were prepared by Mr. Clifford, the most important being the *khassra*, the *khatauni*, and the record-of-rights.

In connection with the formation of the record-of-rights, the Settlement Officer was invested with the authority of a Civil Court, which had sole jurisdiction in regard to suits for land or things pertaining to land. The number of suits submitted while the Settlement Courts were open was large, amounting in all to 12,658. Of these, however, no less than 1,725 were either settled out of court or by default, and 7,873 were dismissed. There were 2,277 claims to proprietary right to entire villages or

independent pattis, and of these only 187 were decreed. This small figure was due in great measure to the care with which the summary settlement was made. Mr. Maconochie writes : " The officers entrusted with this duty, having ample means at command for ascertaining the people having the best title to the zamindari, took full advantage of them, and I confess I was never thoroughly satisfied when I came to a decision on this point adverse to the parties put in possession at annexation. However, the number of changes have been comparatively few, only 161 villages, or 17 per cent., having changed hands, or been decreed the property of the State."* Claims to shares were very numerous, and in 842 cases, or 30 per cent., they were decreed. " The number of rejections may seem large, but all these claims were not brought by parties entirely out of possession for recovery of their ancestral shares ; but it often happened that one co-sharer brought a suit against another, to oust the latter on plea of no possession within limitation ; I need hardly say that, as a rule, these claims were rejected ; at the summary settlement, arrangements among co-sharers having been for the most part entered into voluntarily, no one was allowed to draw back therefrom. The only persons against whom strenuous opposition was made, were those who had fled in times of difficulty, leaving the others to fight the matter out as best they could." † The remaining claims were those to under-proprietary rights, which were few, and to *sir*, *nankar* and groves. Of the former, 47 out of 240 were decreed, and in the latter 1,984 out of 6,410, but most of these were of an unimportant nature.

Mr. Clifford, who assessed the greater part of the district, had no old records to fall back upon ; there were no known rent-rates employed by the people themselves, a lump sum alone being recorded in the village papers ; and consequently he had to devise his own system. He first divided the parganas into circles containing villages with some features in common, such as similar soil and similar means of irrigation. Then the Sadr Munsarim proceeded to each village, and ascertained the rent of fields selected from random - from these rents an average was

struck, and applied to the total of each kind of soil. The assets were then obtained by calculating the area held and the rents paid by resident and non-resident tenants, the lands held as *sir* or rent-free being provisionally assessed at the former rate. If these assets tallied with those arrived at by the circle rates, it was presumed that a tolerably accurate estimate had been reached; otherwise the cause of the variation was ascertained by personal investigation. Mr. Maconochie followed the same plan, but instead of taking the average of a few fields, he calculated the rent of the entire village, obtaining the assets by multiplying the total of each kind of soil by his assumed rent-rate. In making the assessment the character and position of the proprietors was always taken into account; so many of the members of the coparcenary bodies, who formerly were in service and thus contributed to the support of the village, had been thrown back on their shares for a livelihood, and to such a length had subdivision been carried, that it was impossible in many instances to fix a demand on the full assets, as given by the assumed rates. The aim of the assessing officers was to fix a demand as near the full half assets as the proprietors had the power of paying. Groves were exempted, and culturable waste very lightly assessed, while very sparing notice was taken of other sources of income.

For the old district of Unao the demand was fixed at Rs. 9,86,115, showing an increase of 8.49 per cent. on that of the summary settlement. To this must be added the revised demand for Auras-Mohan and the Baiswara parganas, which bring the total up to Rs. 12,87,271, excluding cesses, and the allowance made on the estates of loyal taluqdars.* The cost of the settlement was fairly heavy, amounting to Rs. 198-1-6 to the square mile, or nearly 23 per cent. of the new revenue for one year. During the currency of the settlement a few reductions were made on over-assessed villages; these lay in the tarai area and had suffered from a series of wet years, the revision of the revenue taking place in 1874. Another reduction had to be made for mahals washed away by the Ganges, and the remainder of the total

decrease of Rs. 8,311 consisted of the remission of revenue on land acquired for public purposes. Against this must be set off the enhancements obtained by assessing waste land grants and resumed *muafis*, so that the expiring demand in 1894 was altogether Rs. 12,84,126.

With regard to the working of this settlement, Mr. Moreland wrote: "That the expiring settlement was moderate is shown by the small amount of reductions found to be necessary. In ordinary years the revenue has been realized in full without any difficulty, and severe processes have been employed only in exceptional cases. It appears that during the course of the expiring settlement attachment of immovable property was made in 137 cases; in four cases temporary transfer of a share was sanctioned, while in nine cases the settlement was annulled. In no case was land sold for arrears of revenue; of the attachments, 54 took place in 1871-72 and 27 in 1879-80; these high figures being apparently due to successive bad harvests. Apart from these two years, the revenue has been realized as a matter of course."*

Unao was the first district in Oudh to come under resettlement. It is also the first district in which the experiment, since condemned, was adopted of having the assessment carried out by the District Officer in addition to his ordinary duties. There can be no doubt that the revision would have been carried out with greater rapidity had a separate Settlement Officer been appointed. The district was brought under settlement in November 1889, and the last assessment was sanctioned in July 1895. The first year was occupied in preliminary operations, and the actual work was completed in four and-a-half years. Mr. A. M. W. Shakespear, I.C.S., conducted the greater part of the assessment, holding charge from the beginning to April, 1894, with the late Mr. J. Vaughan as assistant, the latter being Settlement Officer for nine months of this period. In October, 1893, Mr. Vaughan was succeeded by Mr. W. H. Moreland, I.C.S. From April, 1894, till his death in the following July, Mr. J. Penney, I.C.S., was in charge of the settlement. He was followed by Mr. Moreland, who completed the work and wrote the report. The settlement

was confirmed for a period of thirty years, and will terminate in the Unao tahsil on the 30th of June, 1923, in Safipur in 1924, in Purwa in 1925, and in Mohan in 1926. The cost was high, amounting to Rs. 200 per square mile, but this was chiefly due to the manner in which the operations were conducted.

The revision commenced with an examination of the records by Colonel D. G. Pitcher. He recommended a new survey of the district, but it was eventually decided merely to correct the old village maps, by means of a staff of amins aided by the patwáris. Next came the verification of the rent-roll and the preparation of the assessment statements and village note-books. Circles were framed where possible in accordance with geographical distinctions; but practically the only natural line available was that which separated the low riverside lands from the rest of the district. The upland tracts were generally divided into circles in accordance with the productive capacities of the village and without regard to contiguity, the main points considered being the rent-rate, the fertility of the soil, means of irrigation, and the sufficiency of the agricultural population. The selection of standard rates was rendered difficult by the almost entire absence of prevailing soil rates, and by the fact that rents were found, as in the former assessment, to be for the most part fixed on the holding and not on separate fields. A few recognised soil rates were made use of in certain parganas, especially for the poorer sort of rice land, which is almost uniformly let at two rupees an acre. Thus the standard rates were generally founded on holdings containing only one class of soil; when large numbers of these holdings were considered, fair rates appeared, the correctness of which was checked by applying them to the whole area, after excluding villages where the rents were either too high or too low. These standard rates were generally moderate as compared with the rent-roll, so that there was little risk of over-assessment in their use.

The assessment was made upon a full area, amounting to 590,506 acres as against an average cultivated area of 583,444 acres during the preceding five years. The excess consisted chiefly of fallow included in holdings, most of it being land temporarily out of cultivation on account of a series of wet years. In

some of the more precarious villages the inclusion of fallows led to high assessments, which were reduced on appeal to the Settlement Commissioner. Mr. Hooper writes:* "On the whole the assessed area, though full, is probably not excessive for the district in normal years. When the settlement was made, considerable areas in some parganas had been thrown out of cultivation by floods. With drier seasons recovery should be rapid, and the cultivation may be expected to equal, or even exceed, the entire area brought under assessment; but the precarious tracts, which suffer from flooding, will require careful watching should another period of heavy rainfall set in." The sanctioned assessment in revenue-paying estates under temporary settlement was Rs. 14,33,315, amounting to 47·86 per cent. of the assets, and giving an enhancement of 22·27 per cent. on the expiring demand; it fell with an incidence of Rs. 2·81 per acre of cultivation. The actual revenue of the permanently-settled area is Rs. 1,11,988, which brings the total demand up to Rs. 15,45,303, and gives an enhancement of 20·34 per cent. For the purpose of calculating cesses, the nominal revenue is Rs. 16,03,028, or 48 per cent. of the assets. Since the declaration of the assessments, reductions were made to the extent of Rs. 7,549. The permanently assessed mahals number 125, and in 111 of these a reduction of ten per cent. was given as a reward for the loyalty of the proprietors. These estates lie chiefly in the parganas of Mauranwan, Harha and Purwa. Besides these, there are 14 in the Baiswara parganas and eleven in Fatehpur-Chaurasi. The new demand was in some cases made progressive, the enhancement being spread over a period of ten years. The full revenue was paid from the first in the Unao tahsil, excepting part of Harha, and in Panhan, Patan and Daundia Khera. Elsewhere the final assessment was frequently reached on the expiry of five years, the parganas allowed the full term being Auras-Mohan, Jhalotar-Ajgain, Asiwan-Rasulabad, Safipur, Bangarman, Purwa and Bhagwantnagar; but even in these the difference between the first and second period was only Rs. 1,427.

The Settlement Officer took no action under the alluvial rules, except to demarcate alluvial mahals where necessary. Allu mah

The quinquennial reassessments have been carried out in regular order by the district staff. These mahals are 89 in number, including six which were given in permanent settlement. They all lie along the Ganges and most of them are directly subject to fluvial action.

There is a general consensus of opinion that the present assessment was a severe one, but from the very outset it was subjected to unlooked-for tests, so that it is, perhaps, too early to pass a fair judgment on it. Soon after its completion came the famine of 1897, which necessitated liberal suspensions and remissions. Then came a period of depression in the deteriorated tracts referred to in Chapter I, which caused large balances, most of which had eventually to be written off as irrecoverable. From 1898 to 1902 the total balances amounted to over Rs. 88,000, but it would seem that with a succession of more favourable years the depression has passed away, and the revenue is now collected fairly easily. The average number of sales of land by orders of court since 1900 has been 35 annually, involving land assessed at Rs. 1,812. Private sales average 625 cases—a high figure; but it is impossible to ascribe this to the enhanced revenue, as undoubtedly in many cases the thriftlessness of the proprietors would lead to sale whether the land was assessed or not.

In addition to the ordinary land revenue, the usual cesses are collected. At the time of the first regular settlement these amounted to 2·5 per cent. only of the revenue, and comprised the one per cent. road fund, the one per cent. school cess, the district post cess and marginal cesses, amounting each to one-quarter per cent. The total sum thus realized was Rs. 26,450. In 1874 the local and marginal cesses had been raised to 2½ per cent., making a total of 5 per cent., yielding Rs. 69,000. At the present time cesses include the consolidated local rate, amounting to Rs. 1,14,685 in 1902; the rural police rate, Rs. 31,779; the village watch cess, Rs. 20,654, and the patwári rate, Rs. 49,240. This gives a total of Rs. 2,16,358, or 12 per cent. of the revenue as nominally assessed upon all lands, whether held under temporary or permanent settlement or revenue-free.

For the purposes of police administration the district is divided into thirteen police circles. In the Unao tahsil there

are stations at Unao and Achalganj; in the Purwa tahsil at Purwa, Mauranwan, Asoha, Bihar and Bara; in the Safipur tahsil at Safipur, Bangarmau and Fatehpur-Chaurasi; and in Mohan at Hasanganj, Ajgain and Auras. The number is very small when the area and population of the district are taken into consideration. Formerly there were only nine stations, but even with the addition of the four more recent thánas of Fatehpur, Asoha, Bihar and Auras, the circles in Unao are very much larger than is ordinarily the case in the United Provinces and present a striking contrast to those of the adjoining districts of Fatehpur and Cawnpore.* These circles have for the most part purely conventional boundaries and do not coincide in any case with the tahsil limits. The Unao circle comprises the whole of parganas Unao and Sikandarpur, 41 villages of Harha, nine of Pariar, and the large village of Makhi in Asiwan-Rasulabad. The remainder of Harha lies chiefly in thána Achalganj, which comprises 120 villages of this pargana, while ten villages belong to Purwa and seven to Bara. The rest of pargana Pariar, consisting of 13 villages, belongs to the Safipur circle. This also includes the great bulk of the Safipur pargana, and five villages of Fatehpur. The remainder of Fatehpur-Chaurasi lies in the thána of that name, and the same applies to Bangarmau, of which all but ten villages belong to the Bangarmau circle, eight of these falling within the limits of the Fatehpur thána. The rest of the tahsil, comprising these two villages of Bangarmau and eight of Safipur are included in the Auras circle. In tahsil Mohan, pargana Auras-Mohan is divided between the Auras and Hasanganj thánas; Asiwan-Rasulabad between Auras, Hasanganj and Safipur, while eight villages belong to Ajgain and one to Unao; pargana Jhalotar-Ajgain falls almost wholly in the Ajgain circle, only four villages belonging to Hasanganj, and one, Barsinghpur, to Unao; and Gorinda-Parsandan is divided between Ajgain and Asoha. Lastly, in the Purwa tahsil all the ten parganas are divided up among the circles of the Purwa, Asoha, Mauranwan, Bihar and Bara stations, and the arrangement is far less confusing than elsewhere, as no villages lie within the circles of stations situated beyond the

* Appendix, Tables II and XVII.

tahsil limits. Thus the Purwa circle comprises almost all of Purwa pargana, 17 villages of Magrayar and seven of Panhan. Ascha includes all the pargana of that name, 32 villages of Mauranwan, and the remaining six of Purwa. The rest of Mauranwan forms the Mauranwan thána. The Bara circle consists of Ghatampur, nearly the whole of Daundia Khera, 22 villages of Bhagwantnagar and nine of Magrayar. The Bihar circle includes all Bihar and Patan, 30 villages of Bhagwantnagar, 16 of Panhan, four of Magrayar and the remaining six of Daundia Khera.

The police force of Unao is in the charge of the District Superintendent of Police, who is assisted by a European reserve inspector. The whole district forms a single circle for one circle inspector. The regular police force of the district in 1903 consisted of 35 sub-inspectors, 13 head-constables and 152 men.* In addition to these there are about 150 officers and men of the armed police. The municipal police of Unao number 19 men, and the town police of those places administered under Act XX of 1856 amounted in all to 68 men. Lastly, we have 58 men belonging to the road-police and 1,920 village chaukidars. The proportion of the regular civil police is one to every 9·3 square miles of area and one to every 5,222 inhabitants.

The village chaukidars are now regular Government servants and are, for the most part, paid from the Oudh rural police rate, which is a great improvement on the unsatisfactory state of things recorded by Mr. Maconochie in the report of the first regular settlement. They still, as then, belong chiefly to the Pasi caste.† Their inefficiency was enhanced by the fact that the landowners were no longer able, as in the Nawabi, to adopt harsh measures towards the offending chaukidars. Mr. Maconochie recommended that a regular jagir should be given to each chaukidar—a practice that was subsequently adopted. He estimated that the chaukidar received on an average less than Rs. 22 a year, as well as some small cesses from the cultivators, but even this pittance was paid irregularly. The Oudh Local Rates Act was passed after the completion of the assessment of the Unao tahsil, and there

the old system remains in force. The zamindars, however, pay the chaukidars generally in cash at a fixed rate.

The tables given in the appendix give some idea of the crime of the district.* It will be observed that the number of offences against property is proportionately very small and compares favourably with other districts of Oudh. On the other hand, murder is fairly common, the average number of cases for the last few years being no less than 14. "In former, and even in comparatively recent times, this district bore an unenviable notoriety in the matter of crime. In no part of Oudh was life and property more insecure. Thuggee and dacoity were rife, so that no one could stir beyond the boundaries of his own village, without a guard of retainers or relations. The Rajputs were especially given to dacoity; if hard pressed by chakladars or their village was taken away, without adequate means being provided for their maintenance, they at once took to the road, as the simplest and easiest means of support. Their own village was particularly the object of their unpleasant attentions, in order to prevent outsiders taking possession of it. In this they had the sympathy of all their friends and neighbours; and in a quarrel, which according to their ideas was a just one, the ousted zamindar could generally count upon any amount of active assistance and protection. The consequence was that seldom a day passed without some village or other being harried and burnt, either by the zamindars to force a farmer to give it up, or else by the Government officials to bring a refractory zamindar to obedience. The annexation put a stop to a great deal of the more violent crimes; but gang robberies for some time remained frequent and of constant occurrence; these have now to a great extent died out, and the Pasis are the only class who habitually keep up crime as a trade."†

With regard to the present state of the district Mr. Roberts, lately Deputy Commissioner, writes: "Apart from homicides, which are numerous, the Unao district enjoys a singular freedom from heinous crime. Crime of a serious professional type is extremely rare. This is a little surprising when we consider

the number of impoverished Thakurs there are in the district; most of whom trace their descent from more or less glorified freebooters. Highway robbery, however, is no longer the fashion amongst them, or is regarded as too dangerous an amusement. They are a degenerate race, and their favourite pastime is litigation. To overreach one of their own brethren is only less blissful than to evade, on some technicality, a debt to their common enemy, the Bania. They are still liable to sudden gusts of passion; of which sexual jealousy is most frequently the provoking cause. Hence the prevalence of homicides. Their mental distrust, however, is a bar to their combination even in wrong doing; dacoities, therefore, and all crimes requiring organization, such as cattle-lifting, are infrequent. When they can combine to sink their mental jealousies, they can be exceedingly troublesome to deal with. Such cases, however, are rare.

"This same love of litigation is probably the reason why riots are infrequent. When a riot does occur, it is generally over some question of irrigation. As a rule, however, they are more or less accidental. When there is a dispute the parties prefer the tortuous courses of the law, to the more primitive method of a resort to force. I would I could believe that this was due to any faith in the equity of the decisions arrived at.

"The professional crime of the district takes the less aristocratic form of burglary; and the Pasi, more especially of the Bauriya subdivision, is the habitual sinner. It is not uncommon for a Thakur landowner to throw the ægis of his protection over a gang of Pasi burglars, and such combinations are sometimes difficult to deal with. As the landowner never himself takes any part in the expeditions and only receives a share in the booty after it has been converted, it is practically impossible to proceed against him otherwise than under the bad-livelihood sections of the Procedure Code; and it is by no means easy to procure reliable evidence in such cases. The subordinates can generally be disposed of, but that is of little use as long as the landowner remains as a focus for the attraction of others.

"Apart from this, the only difficulty lies in the extreme apathy of the people. They have, I am afraid a profound distrust

in the detective capacities of the police; and being entirely lacking in public spirit, they will not take any trouble to bring offenders to justice. They will not even take the trouble to report cases of which they have themselves been the victims; and when they do, they minimize the loss with a view to avoiding the trouble of a police investigation. There is a general consensus of opinion that the crime returns of the district are unreliable, owing to the failure to report burglaries and thefts."

In former days the district bore a very bad name for ¹infanticide, and it would seem that the crime lingered on here for some years after its complete suppression in the rest of Oudh *. The last distinct case of this nature occurred in 1886, and was the chief cause of an inquiry made into the state of infant mortality in Oudh. A number of Rajput villages then came under suspicion, but it was not considered necessary to apply the provisions of the Act. The last census, as well as that of 1891, showed a more satisfactory state of things and it may be safely assumed that the practice has become obsolete. It is obvious that in those castes where hypergamy is compulsory there must be some difficulty in obtaining suitable husbands for girls belonging to the higher divisions, and it was usual in poor families to get rid of them by an overdose of opium, or by drowning them in milk. Even when actual murder had been given up, it is certain that female children were neglected, and died at a greater rate than males. The latest figures, however, show that this is no longer the case.

There is one jail in the district and this is located at Unao, J. the headquarters. It was constructed in 1860 on the standard pattern of the Oudh district jails. It stands in the civil station, at a short distance from the courts, and is under the charge of the Civil Surgeon.

The history of excise administration in the Unao district E begins with the year 1860, when the distillery system was introduced. There were then four distilleries, one being at Unao and the others at the headquarters of each outlying tahsíl. At that time, the duty was twelve annas per gallon and the strength of the liquor was not allowed to exceed 25°* below proof

Licenses for the vend of country liquor were granted free. The number and the locations of the shops was not fixed, but were regulated merely by the natural law of supply and demand. From time to time modifications were subsequently made in this system. Among others, fees were exacted for the manufacture and for the wholesale and retail vend of liquor; the number and locality of the shops were officially defined; while the outlying distilleries were gradually abolished, that at Purwa being the last, and remaining as a separate institution till 1895. Up to the year 1871 the distilleries were under the superintendence of the tahsildars, but in that year naib-tahsildars for excise duty were first appointed. At the same time, the still-head duty, which had already been raised to one rupee per gallon, was increased to two rupees per gallon of London proof and Re. 1-8-0 per gallon of 25° under proof liquor issued from the distillery. The sole remaining distillery at Unao now supplies liquor to this district and also to certain dealers in the adjoining districts of Rai Bareilly, Bara Banki, Hardoi and Lucknow. The rates of duty in force in 1903 are Rs. 2-8-0 per imperial gallon of London proof and Re. 1-14-0 of 25° under proof liquor. There is only one shop in the district licensed for the retail vend of European liquor, but there are 146 shops for the sale of country spirit. The number has been greatly reduced during the last thirty years, for in 1875 there were no less than 539 shops in the district. Country spirits are almost universally consumed by the lower castes. The statistics regarding excise since the year 1891 will be found in the appendix.* It will be noticed that the consumption, which is chiefly of the cheaper and weaker spirit, varies greatly from year to year. It seems to depend directly on the harvests; for the lowest figure ever recorded was 15,154 gallons in 1896, in which the district suffered greatly from famine. Similarly in 1877, the total consumption was 22,282 gallons or about one-fourth of that of the preceding year, in which there had been no famine. It would seem in fact that this table provides a fairly accurate guide as to the prosperity or otherwise of the district from year to year. From 1881 to 1899 a period of unusually good harvests the district

consumption of spirit reached an annual average of nearly 114,000 gallons; while in the following decade which began with a series of wet years followed by a period of acute scarcity, the average was no more than 44,250 gallons. Since 1896 it has been steadily on the increase.

There are seventeen shops in the district licensed for the sale of opium. On an average some 750 *sérs* are consumed annually in the district. The present system of opium excise dates from the year 1877, since which time there have been but few variations. At the present time opium is sold both by the official vendors at the tahsils and by private persons, both of whom obtain opium from the headquarters treasury at a uniform rate of seventeen rupees per *sér*. Hemp drugs are largely consumed in this district, especially in the form of *bhang* and *charas*; the use of *gánja* is practically unknown, as this drug has never been popular in Unao. At the present time the right to sell hemp drugs is farmed by public auction for the whole district for three years. The sum thus realized in 1903 for the ensuing three years amounted to Rs. 2,00,000. In former days the farmers used to sell drugs free of any duty, but in October 1896 rates were fixed for the different forms of drugs, and the contractor is now required to deposit his supplies in a bonded warehouse. There is no duty on *bhang*, but *charas* pays duty at the rate of six rupees per *sér*. The average annual consumption of hemp drugs of all kinds in the district since 1892 has been 850 maunds, of which *bhang* accounts for no less than 720 maunds.

The only other excisable commodity is *tári*, the fermented juice of the palm tree. Originally the licenses were farmed, but the shop-to-shop system was introduced in 1900, to be replaced in 1903 by the old farming system. The licenses are sold for each tahsil by public auction annually. The sum realized in 1903 was Rs. 6,925, of which more than half was contributed by the Safipur tahsil and nearly the whole of the remainder by Mohan; the total for Purwa being only Rs. 275 and that for Unao Rs. 450. There are altogether 113 shops in the district licensed to sell *tári*.

A list of all the post-offices in the district by parganas and tahsils is given in the appendix. The head office is that at

Unao, and there are nine sub-offices and 37 branch offices. The latter are mostly in the charge of extra departmental agents, who carry on the postal work in addition to their own profession. The only departmental branch offices are those at Padri Kalan, Gangaghat and Bihar. The post-offices in the district are all imperial, with four exceptions: those are Badhni and Pariar in Safipur, Terha in Purwa and Haidarabad in Mohan. Almost all the offices are served by Imperial mail lines, the post being carried by runners, except in the case of those for Aijain and Gangaghat, which go by train. The mails leave Unao office at 6 p.m. for all parts except the two offices on the railway; and are brought in from all the offices in the district at 6 a.m. The present postal arrangement dates from the year 1892, when Oudh was amalgamated with the North-Western Provinces into a single circle. Prior to this there were no superintendents in the Oudh postal circle, but independent inspectors in communication with the head of the circle, holding the powers of superintendent. These inspectors have since the amalgamation been placed under the control of a superintendent, the latter having an independent charge of some four or five districts.

The district dāk originated at the first regular settlement. Prior to 1803 letters were delivered by the Imperial post at Unao, whence they were despatched to each police-station, the thāna muharrir sending them on as opportunity occurred and collecting the postage as he could. There was no remuneration of any sort for the postal work, so that no one troubled about it or had the slightest interest in either the rapid or safe delivery of the letters. Consequently, a cess was levied of four annas per cent. on the revenue for the improvement of the district postal arrangements. Post-offices presided over by paid postmasters were established at the tahsils and thānas; the villages in each pargana being formed into circles in the charge of a separate postmaster, whose duties were often imposed on the patwāri. Messengers were attached to each circle for delivering and collecting letters, while a regular system of mail runners was inaugurated. These runners were paid three rupees a month and received from the addressee one pice for each letter delivered—

an arrangement which, although it was a decided improvement on the former system, speedily called for reform. The old district offices were gradually converted into Imperial offices and mail lines taken over for the most part by the Imperial postal authorities. At the present time the sub-offices of Purwa, Safipur, Mauranwan, Hasanganj and Bangarmau are served by the district lines as well as thirteen branch offices. There are at present 138 miles of mail lines, and 24 runners for carrying the post.

The receipts from income-tax are less in Unao than those of any other district in the Lucknow division except Sitapur. This is only to be expected in the absence of large towns and commercial centres, and where the population almost wholly derives its means of subsistence from the land. The figures for the last few years, both for the whole district and for each tahsíl, will be found in the appendix.* The average receipts for the twelve years ending 1903 amount to Rs. 22,218. In 1902 there were 979 persons assessed, but of these only 45 were estimated as enjoying incomes of over Rs. 2,000 per annum. The average tax paid by the latter was Rs. 90; 14 belonged to the Mohan tahsíl, 13 to Purwa, 11 to Unao and only seven to Safipur. In the case of those whose income is estimated at under Rs. 2,000, the average amount of tax paid was Rs. 15-12-0. It would therefore appear that the great majority of these incomes is under Rs. 1,000, and consequently the reduction in the receipts is likely to be very considerable under the new rules by which all incomes not exceeding Rs. 1,000 are exempted.

The registrar of the district is the District and Sessions Judge of Hardoi. There is a registration office at Unao, in the charge of the Subordinate Judge, and others at Safipur, Purwa, Bangarmau, Hasanganj and a joint office at Bhagwantnagar. Formerly there were many others. The registration offices at Bihar, Sikandarpur, Mauranwan, Asiwan, Jhalotar and Fatehpur-Chaurasi were closed in April, 1895. The joint offices at Harha and Auras were removed in March, 1900 and February, 1901, respectively, while that at Bhagwantnagar was reduced to a joint office in October, 1901. The average income from registration fees, estimated from 1896 to 1901, was Rs. 6,859.

* Appendix Tables XIII and XIV

The income from the various kinds of stamps and the expenditure for the past few years will be found in the table given in the appendix.* The figures sufficiently explain themselves, and call for no further remark. It will be noticed that the court-fee stamp income has greatly increased since 1900. The number of applications for ejectments has increased very rapidly in this district since 1895, the former figure being about 600, as against a total of over 4,000 in 1902.

Local self-government is represented in Unao by the District Board, the municipality of Unao and the towns administered under Act XX of 1856. The last include Safipur, Bangarman, Muradabad, Mohan, Purwa, Bhagwantnagar and the combined towns of Newalganj and Maharajganj. All of these have been separately described, and in each article an account will be found of the revenue and expenditure. The municipality of Unao is of very old standing, having been first constituted in 1869. Some reference to it has been made in the article on Unao, and further information will be found in the appendix, in which a statement of the revenue and expenditure since 1890 is given.† The Board consists of twelve members, of whom ten are elected and two appointed by Government. The income is chiefly derived from the tax on houses and lands, and taxes on professions and trades, and on animals and vehicles. Market dues and pound fees make up the bulk of the income. The trade of the town is too small to admit of the adoption of an octroi tax on imports.

The District Board consists of 17 members, of whom five are appointed by Government, and twelve elected, three being returned from each tahsíl. The work is of the usual nature and a statement of income and expenditure since 1890 will be found in the appendix.‡ Reference has already been made to some of the departments under the control of the board, such as ferries, roads and vaccination, but there remain one or two others of importance, which will be dealt with separately.

The board has in its charge the medical arrangements of the district, over which supervision in the matter of departmental

* Appendix, Table XII. † Appendix, Table XVI.

‡ Appendix, Table XV

administration is exercised by the Civil Surgeon. There are now five dispensaries in the district managed by the District Board, and located at each of the tahsíl headquarters and at Mauranwan. The oldest is that at Unao, which was opened in 1859. Besides these, there is a small aided female hospital at Unao, as well as the usual police hospital. In 1902 the average daily attendance at the regular dispensaries was 232 persons, the numbers being highest for Mauranwan and Unao, and smallest in the case of Hasanganj.

One of the most important functions of the District Board is the management of the educational arrangements. In point of education the district is somewhat in advance of the rest of Oudh, the proportion of literate persons at the last census being 3·03 per cent. as against the provincial average of 2·81. This was not always so, for in 1865 the settlement officer wrote: "During the Nawabi no effort at general education was thought of; in each *qasba* some Maulvi usually started a small school for the benefit of the children of the well-to-do residents, who wished to fit them for entering the king's service. Reading, writing, a little arithmetic, with reciting from the Quran, formed the usual scholastic course. And in the villages, the patwári would teach Hindi to the sons of the zamindars or other respectable inhabitants; but instruction was confined to reading and writing, and if a zamindar with great pain and difficulty could spell out a Hindi letter and sign his name, he was considered rather a marvel."*

Soon after annexation, systematic efforts were made to establish schools and to place instructional facilities within the reach of all. As early as 1865 the district possessed a zila school, which had been founded in 1861, three tahsíl schools, started in 1861 and 1862, and 61 primary schools, while in the following year an anglo-vernacular school on the grant-in-aid principle was opened at Bangarmau. The *halkabandi* system was introduced between 1865 and 1867. The attendance was small, amounting to 1,932 pupils daily, but a rapid improvement soon set in. In 1877, in addition to the zila school, there were eleven middle schools and 116 others with an average attendance of 5,714. These were supported at a cost of Rs. 21,200 derived chiefly

from the district cess and an Imperial grant of nearly Rs. 7,000, and also from local subscriptions. In 1891 the number of literate persons was 3·1 per cent., the highest figure as yet recorded. At the present time, primary education is eagerly sought after, and the schools are well attended, while some of the secondary schools are among the best in Oudh.

Schools. A list of all the schools in the district with the approximate attendance will be found in the appendix, and also a table showing the progress of education during recent years.* This list does not include the unaided indigenous schools, which are fairly numerous, but which are seldom of long duration, the number varying from year to year. The chief is the high school at Unao, the descendant of the old zila school. Besides this, there is another anglo-vernacular school at Mauranwan, known as the Kedarnath Diamond Jubilee School, founded in 1897 by the taluqdar from whom it takes its name. The middle-vernacular schools are eight in number, and are maintained at the pargana headquarters of Mohan, Mauranwan, Safipur, Purwa, Bhagwantnagar, Bihar and Bangarmau and at Muradabad. The Government village schools number 98 in all, of which 39 are of the upper and 59 of the lower primary type. The aided schools are 27 in number. There are two girls' schools, one at Unao and the other at Unchgaon in pargana Daundia Khera. The unaided indigenous schools numbered 17 in 1901, with a total attendance of 220 pupils; in fourteen of these Arabic is taught, and Sanskrit in the remaining three. The present expenditure on education is about Rs. 21,500.

Literacy. As stated above, the number of literate persons is 3·03 per cent. Of the males, 5·8 per cent. are literate, and of females ·1 per cent.—a very low figure, as the general average for the United Provinces is ·24 per cent. Musalmans, both male and female, are proportionately more literate than the Hindus, for at the last census 6·26 per cent. of the Muhammadan males and ·26 per cent. of the females could read and write, while for the Hindus the figures were only 5·79 and ·07 per cent. respectively. It would be fairer, however, to compare them with a few picked castes of Hindus, such as Brahmans, Rajputs, Banias and Kayasths, but

* Appendix, Table XVIII.